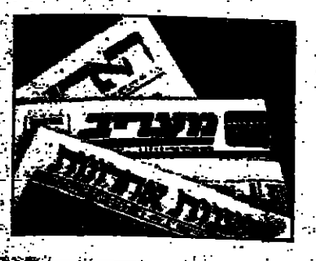
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Rajoub threatens to shoot violent settlers in PA areas

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Settlers who enter any Palestinian Authority-controlled area with the intent to harm Palestinians will not leave alive, West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub warned yesterday.

"Our people have the right to resist occupation," he told a press conference in Hebron, adding that the Palestinian Police in all PA-controlled areas had been ordered to act against any settlers who attempt to harm Palestinians.

Rajoub also said he was suspending security cooperation with the IDF in Hebron until further notice.

Rajoub's comments brought angry reactions from Israeli government officials and settlers.

"Grave threats lead to an escalation and hot-headedness at a time when we all need to concern ourselves with calming the atmosphere," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said.

"More and more I am getting the impression that the Palestinians do not want to progress and are rather counting on the Europeans, Americans, or someone else to come and dictate terms more to their liking and thus be saved the elementary thing of a process of direct negotiations in the road to peace."

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Hebron Jewish community, said Rajoub's remarks exposed the barbaric and terrorist nature of the PA.

"Murderers remain murderers, and the bubble of the Hebron Accord illusion has finally burst. I hope the government will take notice," he charged.

Aharon Domb, director-general of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza declared that "a terrorist wearing a police uniform remains a terrorist."

Domb said the council is demanding that the government and security officials sever all links with those who support violence.

At the Hebron press conference, the bloodstained clothes and personal effects of the three Palestinians shot by soldiers at the Tarkumiya junction last week were displayed beside the dead men's photos.

A man who said he was an eyewitness to the Tarkumiya incident insisted the driver of the van had not intended to harm the IDF soldiers at the roadblock.

He claimed the van was driving slowly and kept going forward till it hit a cement block at the checkpost. Suddenly, he said, IDF soldiers on both sides opened fire, and later, when the van door opened, two soldiers emptied their guns inside the vehicle, "finishing off the passengers."

PA Minister of Information and Culture Yasser Abed Rabbo said the Palestinians do not accept Israel's investigation of the affair and demanded that the two paratroopers involved be tried.

"We demand a neutral investigation be set up and the soldiers responsible punished," he said, warning that failure by Israel to try the soldiers would be interpreted as encouraging soldiers to continue perpetrating such crimes against the Palestinian people.

"The Tarkumiya incident is for us a crossroad, and we will not remain quiet or accept the formal investigation carried out by the IDF," he charged. "I know of not one Israeli who sits in prison for killing a Palestinian."

During the press conference, Labor Party MKs Micha Goldman, Rafi Elul, and Salah Tarif entered the hall and sat down in the first row. They heard Rajoub's statements, but did not react.

See RAJOUB, Page 3

Document defends Pope Pius XII

Vatican: We regret errors of Holocaust

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG and news agencies

VATICAN CITY – The Vatican yesterday expressed deep regret for the "errors and failures" of Roman Catholics during the Holocaust, but strongly defended wartime Pope Pius XII in a statement promised a decade ago to Jewish groups.

The document disappointed many Jewish leaders, however, because it stopped short of apologizing for any failures by church leaders, as bishops in several European countries have done in recent years.

New Vatican document falls short, Page 3

"We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah" is the title of the 14-page document issued by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jews. The long-awaited document had taken over 10 years to produce.

Cardinal Edward L. Cassidy, president of the commission, said the document was "addressed to the Catholic faithful throughout the world" and hoped that all Christians will meditate "on the catastrophe which befell the Jewish people, on its causes, and on the moral imperative to ensure that never again such a tragedy will happen. At the same time it asks our Jewish friends to hear us with an open heart."

He said it was "more than a request for pardon." It was "an act of repentance, of *teshuva* – a word used in the text."

He said the document was not "a conclusion" but rather "another step" for further development.

In a preface to the document, Pope John Paul II expresses his hopes that it will "enable memory to play its part in the process of shaping a future in which the unspeakable iniquity of the Shoah will never again be possible."

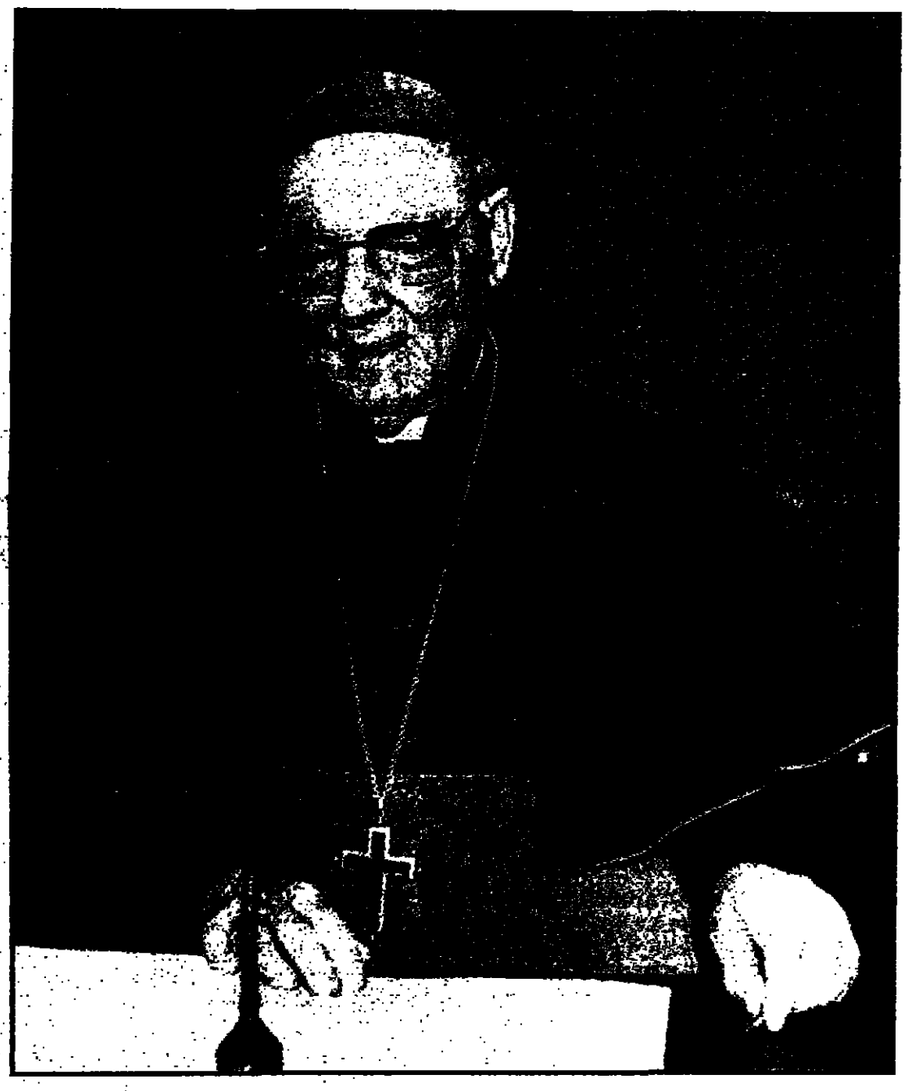
The text concludes: "We pray that our sorrow for the tragedy which the Jewish people has suffered in our century will lead to a new relationship with the Jewish people....

"The victims from their graves, and the survivors, through the vivid testimony of what they have suffered, have become a loud voice calling the attention of all humanity... the spoiled seeds of anti-Judaism and antisemitism must never again be allowed to take root in any human heart."

The document includes a statement on Pius XII.

"During and after the war, Jewish communities and Jewish leaders expressed their thanks for all that had been done for them, including what Pope Pius XII did personally or through his representatives to save hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives."

See VATICAN, Page 3



Australian Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, reads from a document released by the Vatican yesterday on the role the Church might have played during the Holocaust. (AP)

UK Foreign Sect'y here today

Naveh to escort Cook to Har Homa

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

A concerted diplomatic effort yesterday took much of the sting out of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit, but left a wide gap between the two sides' views of the peace process.

The main breakthrough that assured the full gamut of official hospitality came when Cook, who arrives today, agreed to be escorted to the Har Homa construction site by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and the Jerusalem Municipality's Amos Radian, instead of by the Palestinian Authority's Faisal Husseini.

Graffiti sprayed on British Consulate, Page 2

"This is unobjectionable," said David Bar-Illan, communications adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

But Bar-Illan still considers Cook's choice of Har Homa as his first stop in Israel "puzzling." He contended that it might have been more appropriate had Cook gone to Yad Vashem or the Western Wall "as his first act on his first visit to Jerusalem as Great Britain's foreign secretary."

On his way to Cairo at the start of his Mideast tour, Cook said he was determined to go ahead with the visit to Har Homa. In London, a spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said the British leader stood behind Cook.

"I am anxious to see Har Homa for myself," Cook told reporters. "I would have thought that it would be in the interests of both parties – including the government of Israel – that I were informed by seeing the situation for myself."

Husseini said that Cook told Palestinians he would tour Har Homa with Israelis, then visit the adjacent neighborhood of Beit Sahur with Palestinians.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said that although Cook would not meet Husseini at Har Homa, the two would meet elsewhere in eastern Jerusalem.

"This compromise is not suitable," Husseini said, but added that "if he insists on going with the Israeli officials, he must come out with a statement that the Israelis taking him there represent an occupying force."

"Israel is trying to place obstacles before a British role and is trying to belittle the importance of the British role in the peace process," he told Reuters.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, has vowed that Israel will begin construction of the neighborhood, where a tractor was seen clearing a large tract of land yesterday.

"It has to be clear that, from our point of view, Jerusalem remains and will remain the indisputable, indivisible capital of Israel in which we will build communities for Arabs and Jews alike, including Har Homa," Netanyahu told reporters.

Government officials also rejected Cook's reported advocacy of an IDF withdrawal in the West Bank which would involve handing 20 percent of Area B and 20% of Area C over to the PA.

See COOK, Page 2

Lau calls apology 'too little too late'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israeli leaders yesterday reacted with disappointment to the Vatican statement on the Holocaust, with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, an Auschwitz survivor, saying it was "too little and too late."

Lau praised the establishment of the commission which drew up the document, entitled "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," but he added that the Church should have repeated the prayer traditionally recited by Jews on Yom Kippur: "For the sins which we have committed before You, we are guilty."

Lau revealed that in a meeting in the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem with Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, under whose direction the document had been formulated, he had called for a clear statement on the silence of Christianity on the eve of the Holocaust and during the war. Lau said that a large part of the population which carried out the killing and mass destruction had been believing Catholics.

"There is no doubt that a clear condemnation by the Vatican at that time would have had the force to stop the terrible things done during the Holocaust," Lau said.

He said he recalled from his childhood the anti-Jewish teachings of the Church. Jews had been afraid to walk by churches on Sunday, for fear of encountering those who emerged from anti-Jewish sermons, he said.

Lau also criticized the failure to mention the silence of Pope Pius XII. Lau noted that the document had only praised him and made no mention of his "papering over" the sins of the Church or of his refusal to meet with the late chief rabbi of Palestine, Yitzhak Herzog.

"You can't speak of rectifying the past without identifying the actions of individuals," Lau said.

Rabbi David Rosen, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Israel office and the ADL's co-liaison to the Vatican, welcomed the document as "part of a historic process of self-criticism on the part of the Church of its past teaching and conduct."

However, he also expressed regret that the document failed to categorically identify the direct link between the Church's historic "teaching of contempt" toward the Jews and the cultural climate that facilitated the Holocaust.

"On the positive side, it is the first official Vatican document to acknowledge Christian guilt, but on the other hand, the document certainly could have gone further," Rosen said.

He added that the pope himself had gone further in his apostolic letter, "*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*," when he spoke of Christian acquiescence, while yesterday's document only asks whether anti-Jewish sentiment among Christians made them less sensitive or even indifferent.

Of course, Rosen said, the Church cannot say that all Catholics were guilty, but it has to say that the teachings of the Church had a significant role in creating the climate in which the Holocaust took place.

Itzhak Minerbi, an expert on the Vatican, said that instead of examining the role of the Church and especially of Pope Pius XII, the document chose to place all the responsibility on the faithful sons and daughters of the Church. Minerbi said that the document is far from the last word to be heard on the subject, and it was only the exaggerated hopes of some Jewish organizations that had led people to believe otherwise.

"This is not the document which will end all disputes about the Shoah," Minerbi said.

MK Shevah Weiss (Labor), a Holocaust survivor, said that the document is important, but did not erase the papal silence in the dark period of Nazism and Fascism.

See LAU, Page 3

NOW backs Willey's version of Clinton conduct

By DEBORAH ZABARENKO

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – After weeks of low-key response to the White House sex scandal, the head of one of the top feminist organizations yesterday rallied behind US President Bill Clinton's accuser Kathleen Willey.

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, called Willey's version of events "very credible" and said Clinton's conduct in the case may verge on sexual assault.

"This is beyond the idea of the likable rogue or the womanizer and really on into sexual assault, sexual abuse," Ireland said on NBC's *Today* show yesterday. "It's not verbal harassment, this was an unwanted touching, and I think that's a very serious allegation against the president, along with the allegations of covering that up."

Willey, a 51-year-old former friend of Clinton, alleged in court papers made public last week that Clinton fondled her breast and placed her hands on his aroused genitalia in a private meeting near the Oval Office in 1993.

In keeping with a scandal that has been largely played out in the world's media since breaking in January, Willey reiterated her accusations on Sunday in an interview on the CBS program *60 Minutes*. For Ireland, Willey's recounting was different from other accusers' because "unlike other women whose stories have come forward, this is a reluctant witness. This is a woman for whom there is nothing to gain."

"Other women" have been coming forward on the national scene since Clinton first ran for president in 1992, when he admitted on national television that he had caused pain in his marriage, but dodged questions about lounge singer Gennifer Flowers. He later acknowledged having one sexual encounter with her in 1977.

Clinton also has denied accusations by Paula Jones that he asked her for oral sex in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991. Jones' sexual harassment suit against Clinton is set for trial in May, and it was this case that prompted sworn statements from Willey and Monica Lewinsky, a former White House intern, who alleged she had a sexual affair with the president.

Clinton denied any sexual relationship with Lewinsky, now 24, and denied pressuring her to cover anything up. As to Willey, Clinton said he was "mystified and disappointed" by her statements, saying he may have hugged her and kissed her on the forehead, but nothing more.

Feminists have supported Clinton because of his stance on abortion rights, child care and workplace issues including sexual harassment.

ESPN Prime Sports off TV screens today

By ORI LEWIS

Remember today, March 17. For it is a black day in the annals of Israeli communications history as ESPN Prime Sports is taken off the air.

There was hardly a murmur of the event before the news – nothing short of devastating – broke yesterday.

Sports lovers in Israel, who only recently had this channel included in the cable TV package, will now once again be unable to see many of the events which they left behind in their native lands.

The channel, whose main target viewing area is the Indian Subcontinent and all points east, concentrates mainly on cricket, but there is no shortage of other live and recorded events such as NBA, NFL, US college sports, rugby, golf, soccer, motor racing of various kinds, and other events.

Gustavo Treiber, head of the Israel Cable TV Association (ICTA), said yesterday it was the channel's new owners, ESPN, who had decided to discontinue the satellite feed to the Middle East, and that from now on the channel would be broadcast only in Asia.

"It's all a matter of rights, and ESPN is not interested in broadcasting to this area," said Treiber.

See ESPN, Page 2

NEWS
in brief

IDF admits soldier shot Palestinian

A reserve officer admitted to shooting at Palestinian rioters near Tekoa on Sunday night that resulted in the injury of Mohammed Ammor. The IDF Spokesman said that following an investigation it found that an reserve officer fired toward rioting Palestinians. In addition, troops at the site fired rubber bullets and one soldier fired shots in the air to disperse the rioters, who had stoned the IDF troops. The IDF Spokesman said the Military Police would carry out an investigation. On Sunday night, the IDF Spokesman told reporters that IDF troops had not fired shots in the area when Ammor was injured. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Teen remanded for mugging elderly women

A 17-year-old was remanded for a week in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday on suspicion of mugging elderly women after they withdrew cash from an ATM machine in the city's Neve Ya'acov neighborhood. The teen allegedly stood behind elderly women at the machine and, if they withdrew substantial amounts of cash, would follow them and rob them. After several complaints, police detectives staked out the site and caught the youth redhanded. The teen told investigators he has no connection to the robberies. *Itim*

Rehovot man commits suicide

A 21-year-old Rehovot man committed suicide yesterday in the home of his parents. A suicide note found next to his body said he decided to end his life after he was released from the army due to illness. The police said its initial investigation indicated that the man shot himself with a rifle issued to him as a member of the Civil Guard, and that there had been no indications he had been distressed. *Itim*

MDA crew assists in complicated birth

On the way to Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, a Magen David Adom ambulance pulled off the road because its pregnant passenger couldn't wait to give birth. The MDA crew assisted in the birth, which was more complicated than usual because the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby's neck.

"We unwound the umbilical cord and then the baby began to breathe and we brought the mother and child to Ichilov Hospital in good condition," medic Uri Levin said. *Itim*

Man given 8 years for sexually assaulting son

The Haifa District Court yesterday sentenced a Hadera man who sexually assaulted his 10-year-old son last year to eight years in prison, with a two year suspended sentence.

His wife, who had first reported the abuse, asked the court for a lenient sentence, because his lost income would put the family in a difficult financial situation. *Itim*

Graffiti sprayed on UK Consulate in protest against Cook's visit

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Graffiti against British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was spray painted on the walls of the British Consulate in Jerusalem overnight Sunday, police said yesterday.

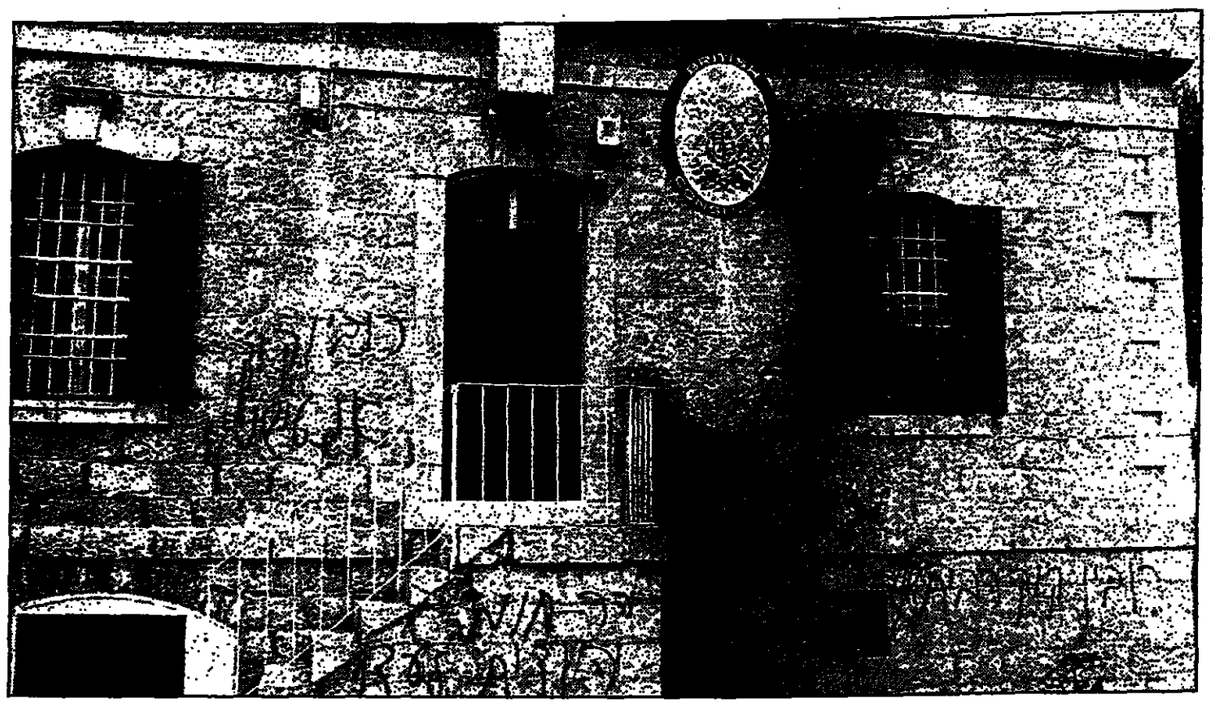
"Robin Cook is an antisemite," "Robin Cook go home," and "Har Homa is Jewish forever!" were written on the walls of the consulate branch near the Jerusalem train station.

The graffiti was in response to Cook's plan to tour Har Homa when he visits today.

He had said at first that he would visit the site together with Palestinian Authority Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Husseini, but later recanted and said he would make a private visit to the controversial site.

Reacting to the graffiti, the British Consulate issued a statement saying it "regretted that some people have to express themselves that way, especially since the purpose of Cook's visit is to advance the peace process."

A British official was quoted as saying, "It's a regrettable thing which no doubt we'll have to clear up sometime, but it is not scaring the wits out of us."



Graffiti calling British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook an antisemite appears at the entrance to the UK Consulate in Jerusalem yesterday (Isaac Harari)

PM: We're ready for Lebanon pullout

By LIAT COLLINS and BATSHEVA TSUR

Israel is ready to withdraw immediately from Lebanon if all aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 425 are upheld, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"We plan to hold a thorough debate on the responsibility of Lebanon in this regard, in the cabinet," Netanyahu said, at a meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee's subcommittee on security affairs.

"Israel is ready in every way to withdraw – on condition that Lebanon upholds the basis of [UN Resolution] 425, which means that there must be international security and peace. If this is not upheld, we will not withdraw."

Committee member Uzi Landau (Likud) said he was in favor of a "step-by-step" evacuation from Lebanon as proposed by National infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. He said that "small parts" of the security zone – preferably the areas that are furthest from the Israeli border – could be evacuated and returned to Lebanese control. The Lebanese attitude toward Israel and its allies should then be examined before the next step is decided upon, he said. However, he cautioned that Israel should not have its hands tied by "Oslo-type" dates for a withdrawal.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday repeated his pledge to try to find a way for Israel to withdraw from south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425.

"I am making an effort to gain the help of other countries in the world, first and foremost the US, France and the UN secretary-general – anybody who will find a way to reach an agreement – based on the Lebanese Army and government taking responsibility and preserving the rights of the south Lebanese residents," Mordechai told parliamentary reporters as he left the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"I suggest that we not be tempted for one minute to think that anything has been concluded," he added. "We are at the beginning of a process. I don't know how long it will take. And I can't today predict what the results will be."

At the committee meeting, Mordechai reportedly clarified that he was not suggesting bringing foreign forces into south Lebanon, but deploying the Lebanese Army there. He stressed that there would not be a unilateral withdrawal until the Lebanese agreed to take control there.

Mordechai said the key to his plan is Syria.

A senior IDF Intelligence officer concurred, saying that in both the Arab world and the international arena, Syria is considered the body which brought stability to Lebanon and President Hafez Assad sees his control there as a personal and historic achievement. The officer also said that Syria has for a long time linked the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon with the Golan Heights issue. He said the Syrians see Israel's attempt to reach an agreement on Lebanon as an attempt to divide Syria and Lebanon and that the Lebanese see it as an Israeli attempt to bypass Damascus.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds:

South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad will be meeting this morning in Tel Aviv with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Defense officials insist this is a routine meeting and that Mordechai and Lahad will discuss the latest positions regarding an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Lahad often visits the Tel Aviv Defense Ministry, but Mordechai's media adviser took a rare step by opening today's meeting to the press.

Defense sources yesterday totally rejected reports in the Israeli press that Lahad, who has been sentenced to death in Beirut for collaboration, has made Paris his home.

"He goes there from time to time, but to say that he was setting up shop there is completely and utterly false," the source said.

Livnat appeals to US for Pollard release

By BATSHEVA TSUR

As part of the stepped-up government campaign to secure Jonathan Pollard's release, Communications Minister Limor Livnat last night called on the US to allow the convicted spy to come to Israel.

US Ambassador Edward Walker sat in the audience at the Jerusalem Theater alongside some 500 members of the Hadassah "Miracle Mission" group, which was concluding a week-long visit here, as Livnat made an impassioned plea at the end of her address.

"I must make a point of mentioning the plight of one Jew, Jonathan Pollard, especially in the presence of the US ambassador," she said. "Jonathan has said that what he did was wrong. He has expressed deep remorse, but the fact of the matter is that after 12 years in prison, he has been punished more than any other person in American history for his crime.

"It is time to let him out," she said. "A presidential pardon now would not be seen as a compromise. It would serve the cause of justice. It would be a humanitarian gesture. Most of all, Mr. Walker – and I urge you to convey this to the White House – enabling Jonathan Pollard to come to live in Israel with his wife is the right thing to do."

Livnat's words received a warm ovation from the audience and Hadassah president Marlene Post expressed admiration for her leadership. Last year Livnat followed the lead of Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein and visited Pollard in his Butner, North Carolina prison.

Last night Livnat also said she could see "no finer gift to Israel for its fiftieth anniversary" than relocating the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

Walker did not respond to Livnat's remarks in his address.

Meanwhile, MK Ophir Pines (Labor) head of the Knesset lobby for Pollard, yesterday distributed letters to MKs calling on them to visit Pollard in jail. He said such a visit could be coordinated by him or by the Foreign Ministry.

Most US Jews still back PM on peace process

By MARILYN HENRY

A majority of American Jews still support Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's handling of the peace process, have declining confidence in Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat, and believe the PLO is not doing enough to control terrorism, according to a poll released yesterday by the American Jewish Committee.

More than two-thirds favor US pressure on Arafat to advance the peace process, but a slim majority opposes pressure on Netanyahu, according to the AJC's "1998 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion."

The survey interviewed a representative sample of 1,001 self-identified adult American Jews between February 19 and March 8.

Fifty-six percent of those surveyed said they support Netanyahu's current handling of the peace negotiations, while 34% said they opposed it.

By contrast, last year, 61 percent of American Jews said they supported Netanyahu's handing of the peace process, while 24 percent were opposed.

When asked "How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today?," 14% said "very positive," 70% "somewhat positive," 14% "somewhat negative," and 1% "very negative."

In 1997, the figures were 23% "very positive," 67% "somewhat positive," and 9% "somewhat negative."

Lawyers for victims wrap up Papon case

By NICOLAS MARMIE

BORDEAUX (AP) – Lawyers for Holocaust victims and their families yesterday wrapped up their case against Maurice Papon, with one calling the former cabinet minister "an impostor without a soul or a conscience."

Papon was a "link in the criminal chain," said lawyer Alain Levy. He said there is no difference between Papon and Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo chief known as the "Butcher of Lyon."

"What a liar!" Papon exclaimed at the end of Levy's argument.

It was the last day of marathon final arguments by some two dozen lawyers representing victims and their families. The state prosecution makes its case later this week, and Papon is to wrap up his defense next week.

Papon, chief police inspector for the Bordeaux region during World War II and later a budget minister, is the highest-ranking official of the pro-Nazi Vichy regime to stand trial for complicity in crimes against humanity. He is accused of signing arrest orders that led to the deportation of 1,690 Jews from Bordeaux. They later died in Auschwitz. Papon maintains he had no major power and was just following orders he received from his boss, Maurice Sabatier, the prefect of Bordeaux during the war.

He also claims he helped the French Resistance during the war – a claim some lawyers have tried to disprove.

Levy told the court that the Jewish Affairs department, "under the authority of Maurice Papon, directed everything, from the documentation to the gathering of the deportees." Trying to show Papon's zeal, he added that to beef up the convoys, Papon and his colleagues deported people of nationalities that, under terms specified by the Nazis, weren't required to be there.

Referring to Papon's claim that he didn't know about the Final Solution, Levy recalled the horrible conditions of French transports and transit camps and said: "Maurice Papon knew that the Jews were going to their deaths. If he didn't know about industrialized death, he knew about mass death."

Papon responded: "You are the coward and the liar!" That prompted Judge Jean-Louis Castagnede to remind him that he is not allowed to speak until the last day of his trial.

The trial, now in its sixth month, is expected to end late next week.

Helicopter airmen buried

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The two airmen who died in the Cobra helicopter crash, Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar and Lt. Ilan Gur, were laid to rest yesterday in funerals attended by thousands, including the nation's and IDF's top leaders.

Navy divers, aided by an underwater robot, recovered their bodies around midnight Sunday, over 14 hours after their attack helicopter split up and crashed into the sea northeast of Herzliya.

Navy and air force personnel continued to search for and pull wreckage of the helicopter from the sea. But due to the sand storms and high seas, it was not possible to recover the main body of the Cobra, Channel 1 said.

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu yesterday appointed reserve colonel Israel Yahalom, a former commander of Palmahim Air Base, as head of the internal inquiry into the accident.

Air force officials still believe it was a technical malfunction that caused the crash, and the IAF's Cobras are still grounded.

Contact was made with Bell, the US company which manufactured the Cobra, to try to determine whether the malfunction could be symptomatic of the whole fleet.

"As of this moment," said Yoni Gil, representative of Bell in Israel, "there has never been anything like this in the history" of the Cobra.

"There has never been a malfunction where the tail actually broke off," Gil added in an interview on "Erev Hadash."

Gil, a retired IAF colonel and former commander of the Palmahim Air Base, said the Cobra was a strong and dependable aircraft.

Former IAF commander David Ivry said that despite the accidents the force has suffered, the IAF had one of the best safety records in the world.

"We are in a very good place in the world," Ivry said, but noted that safety criteria vary from country to country.

"I think our situation in general is very good. But we shouldn't be satisfied with this. To the contrary. We have to constantly seek ways to reduce accidents. I think the air force does this," Ivry said.

Ivry, who lost his son Gil in an air force accident, said that crashes like this one usually were found to be the result of "tired material."

"The first thing that has to be done is to look for cracks or worn-out material," Ivry said.

Ivry said the air force should be concerned over the increase in the number of training accidents.

"Whoever isn't concerned won't repair themselves," Ivry said. "The air force is right now in the eye of the storm."

Eldar had served with Ivry on the inquiry commission investigating the collision of two transport helicopters last year in which 73 servicemen were killed.

Eldar was laid to rest at Rehovot's military cemetery in a funeral attended by so many people that crowds could not fit inside the grounds.

Among those attending were President Ezer Weizman, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak. Ben-Eliyahu eulogized Eldar, 45, as a calm commander he could rely on.

"I don't want to eulogize you or say good-bye to you," Ben-Eliyahu said. "I want to tell you to go on and keep filling your roles."

In Kibbutz Malkiya, thousands of people attended the funeral of Gur, who was just 21 and had earned his wings only two months before he was killed.

His mother Shoshana was supported at his grave-side by his brother Gali. He was eulogized by both Ben-Eliyahu and Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

Batsheva Tsur adds

"In the past few days we have lost some our our best pilots," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said at a meeting of the Knesset's State Control Committee's subcommittee on security affairs. "We are carrying out all possible investigations, but this will not return them to us and their families. These were real quality people who made a great contribution to the air force and the IDF and their loss causes deep pain to the nation, as well as to their family and friends."

COOK
Continued from Page 1

They charged that this view is identical to that of the PA.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said a pullback of this magnitude "would be a direct blow to Israel's security." He contended that it would entail withdrawals from part of the Jordan Valley and the heights overlooking Ben-Gurion Airport.

In an address to students at Jerusalem's Polinsky High School, Kahalani said he favors an evacuation of "between 5% and 10%" of the areas in question.

Speaking in his capacity as chairman of The Third Way, Kahalani said the American proposal, under which 13% of the West Bank would be given up, is also detrimental to national security.

Upon arrival this afternoon, Cook's first stop will be Gaza, where he will meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. He then will proceed to Har Homa.

After that, he will meet with President Ezer Weizman and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. In the evening, he will meet Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's Office.

The British Embassy in Tel Aviv announced that Cook will be discussing the peace process, Iraq, "and other regional issues," as well as bilateral relations with Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"The search for a way to reinvigorate the peace process is one of the key foreign policy priorities for the UK's European Union presidency," the embassy said.

Cook is being accompanied on his trip by EU peace envoy Miguel Moratinos.

"The UK is increasingly concerned by the continuing stalemate in the negotiations and the risk that this poses to the future of the process and to wider regional stability," the statement went on.

The controversy that raged on the eve of Cook's arrival evidently prompted extremist vandals apparently linked to the Kach movement to scribble graffiti on the exterior walls of the British Consulate in Jerusalem. Slogans that defaced the building termed Cook an "antisemite" and proclaimed "Har Homa is Jewish forever."

ESPN
Continued from Page 1

"We had an agreement with the Star TV network, but since ESPN took over their priorities have changed, and Israel is no longer a target area for their broadcasts."

Treiber said that alternatives, including showing some of the programs on Channel 5, are being looked at, and the possibility of obtaining another satellite sports channel is also being mulled, but nothing has yet been finalized.

One thing is certain, however. The hours of cricket, rugby, and golf have gone for the foreseeable future. While it may be technically feasible to pick up the broadcasts even after they were encrypted at 2 a.m. today, it would be illegal to do so.

Treiber said it would even be illegal for an individual to receive the broadcasts with privately-owned equipment.

Treiber said that although he feels for the viewers who will miss out on these sports, according to a telephone poll of 22,410 households last month, only four were watching Star, compared to 111 viewing Eurosport and 637 glued to Channel 5.

In a letter to Zvi Hauser, the Communication Ministry's Cable TV Council chairman, Israel Cricket Association chairman Stanley Perlman urged the intervention of the ministry to get the channel back on the air.

"On behalf of 1,250,000 Israeli lovers of sport [other than soccer and basketball], I appeal to you to negotiate with Star Sports or with Sky Sports so that viewers in Israel can watch their favorite sports again. I cannot begin to describe the anguish that these fans will now suffer."

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Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau (right) chats with some of those who attended yesterday's press conference on the new Vatican document on the Holocaust. (Israel Sun)

New Catholic line on the Holocaust

BACKGROUND

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In the Catholic dialogue with the Jewish people, the Vatican has dealt with theology in Nostra Aetate; it has dealt with the the State of Israel by reaching an agreement and establishing diplomatic relations; and it hopes to resolve the issue of the Holocaust with yesterday's document, "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah."

This is the view of Dr. Geoffrey Wigodor, one of the two Israeli representatives on the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations with Christians (IJCIC). Although Wigoder was quick to note that the document said many important things, he said it also has some obvious shortcomings.

He noted that he was present as the Israeli representative when Paul John Paul II received a Jewish delegation in 1987. It was just after the pope had received Kurt Waldheim, he recalled, and there was a tremendous Jewish reaction, especially in the US. Since the pope was about to visit America, there were fears in the Vatican that the issue would overshadow the visit.

It was a private meeting at the pope's summer residence at Castel Gondolfo and it was the first such meeting, Wigoder recalled, at which there was an actual conversation and not set speeches. It was the Jewish representatives who suggested that the Vatican issue a statement on the Holocaust and a condemnation of antisemitism.

Although the pope endorsed the idea, there followed a three- or four-year delay because of the dispute over the convent at Auschwitz, during which IJCIC cut off its dialogue with the Vatican. Then, Wigoder added, there were six or seven years during which the Vatican dragged its feet. In the meantime, there was at least one major leak of a draft of what Jewish groups hoped might be the final statement.

That draft eventually emerged as a statement by German Catholic bishops, which acknowledged the guilt of German Catholics whose acquiescence allowed Hitler to perpetrate the Holocaust. The statement said that anti-Jewish attitudes in their church prompted "Christians in the years of the Third Reich not to put up the necessary resistance to racist antisemitism. Catholics have much denial and guilt."

A similar statement was issued by the Polish Council of Bishops. In the following years there came statements, albeit not as far-reaching, by the American bishops, the Hungarians, and the Dutch. The most recent such statement came from the French Council of Bishops, expressing repentance for its silence during the Holocaust.

Wigoder said he is convinced that the statement released yesterday had been drafted a year or two ago, but had no doubt been circulated throughout the curia and modified as a result of what he called "internal considerations."

He recalled that when the pope had issued a statement last year on the Hebrew Scriptures, there had immediately been reactions. In addition, he said, what could be described as "conservative Catholic theological attitudes" probably led to sensitivity to every word and line.

As for the text, Wigoder noted that some Jewish observers had expected a condemnation of Pius XII, something which he said will never happen. Others, he said, had expected an apology to the Jewish people, which might have been expected, considering the statement of the French bishops and the fact that the pope himself in 1990 said that the Church has to do *teshuva*. In yesterday's document, he said, Christians are called to repentance for the deeds of their "brothers and sisters," but not the Church.

What has appeared from the document, he said, is a new Catholic line which first came to light at the conference on antisemitism organized by the Vatican. The pope said that in the Christian world, but not on the part of the Church itself, there were erroneous interpretations of the New Testament regarding the Jewish people. In the document, Wigoder said, the line is that it is not the Church that was to blame, but individuals who fell short of the Christian ideal.

"This flies in the face of history," Wigoder said, noting it was the Church fathers themselves who interpreted the New Testament in an anti-Jewish manner; it was the Church councils which ruled against the Jews; and it was the popes themselves who drove the Jews out of civilized life, locking them up in ghettos.

In contrast, Wigoder noted the French bishops, who said that "the Church which we proclaim as holy and we honor as a mystery is also a sinful Church and in need of conversion." Such a view seems to be rejected by the document, he said.

Vatican document falls short

ANALYSIS

By YOSEF ITZHAK HINERBI

"We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah" is the title of the document published yesterday by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

This is not a document which will close the debate between Jews and the Catholic Church about the deeds or lack of deeds by the Church to save Jews during World War II.

In his cover letter Pope John Paul II places this document in the frame of preparations for the third millenium, hopes that it "will indeed help to heal the wounds of past misunderstandings and healings" and that "the Shoah will never again be possible."

But the document itself is rather disappointing because it does not deal at all with the responsibility of the Church as an institution or of Pius XII, the pope who kept silent about the persecutions of the Jews during World war II.

The document duly states that the Shoah took place in Europe "in countries of long-standing Christian civilization" and deep sorrow is expressed "for the failure of her [the Church's] sons and daughters in every age," but the Church as such is above any criticism. So is Pius XII, who appears together with his predecessor Pius XI, and who warned "against theories which denied the unity of the human race and against the deification of the state." Pius XII is also recalled for receiving the thanks of Jewish communities for what he "did personally or through his representatives to save hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives."

Nazism is depicted as a neo-pagan regime and its antisemitism "had its roots outside of Christianity." The Church, it is stated, "condemns all forms of genocide," like the massacre of the Armenians, the victims in Ukraine, the genocide of the Gypsies. So in a document totally dedicated to the Shoah, its uniqueness is questioned.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Quo vadis?

The Lebanese issue became the main focus of the Hebrew press, following National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's initiative supporting a unilateral withdrawal, independent of Syria. Sharon's suggestion challenges Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's proposal. Commentators agree that the debate over the issue is positive, but the implementation could take time.

Ma'ariv's Ofer Shelah claims that withdrawal from Lebanon has turned into a national consensus. "Physically, we should be patient; mentally, Israel has already withdrawn from Lebanon."

"The recent outburst of creativity on the Lebanese issue is one of the more positive phenomena that have occurred lately in the Israeli and Middle Eastern landscape," states *Yediot Aharonot*'s Ron Ben-Yishai, who adds that if Israel manages to simultaneously act on the diplomatic front and redeploy its forces in Lebanon, "it is possible that in the next six months to a year, the picture in southern Lebanon will be different for the better."

Relating to Sharon's proposal, he says that it could lead to a general conflict with the Syrians.

Ha'aretz's Ze'ev Schiff claims that if Sharon's proposal is accepted, it will hinder negotiations with the Syrians and the Golan Heights issue will be pushed aside.

Uri Daromi in *Ma'ariv* believes that "we are burying our heads in the sand" when disregarding Syria's role in the success of a withdrawal. "However, the least we can do is unilaterally withdraw from Lebanon... and as for the Syrian landlord, he must be warned that if he does not restrain his messengers, we will hurt his interests in Lebanon."

Yediot's Nahum Barnea writes that according to Sharon, "Mordechai's plan leads to nothing, or to a general Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights," adding that the debate, therefore, focuses not only on peace in the Galilee but mainly on the fate of the Golan Heights.

Extreme settlers

"In order to avoid any misunderstandings: The 30 Hebron settlers who invaded the Abu Sneineh quarter in order to provoke riots are not wretched Jews nor loyal patriots," writes *Ma'ariv*'s Yosef Lapid. They are "thugs and provocateurs." Lapid claims that after the Palestinians and IDF managed to calm down the events following the Tarkumiya junction shooting, the extreme settlers were discouraged by the fact that IDF will not reoccupy Hebron.

Elyakim Ha'etzni in *Yediot* protests against the blame bestowed on the group of settlers, claiming that their move was a reaction to their being attacked from Abu Sneineh.

Ha'aretz's Uzi Benziman criticizes the government's reluctance to remove the group of extremists which constitutes an "island of provocation in the heart of Hebron." He adds that the government's restraint could lead to anarchy.

Anat Gov in *Yediot* ponders the silence of the settlers who do not rebel against the extreme group among them, that chooses to represent them before the entire world. "How did we let this happen? How did a small and obscure group of heathens and killer lovers manage to control our national agenda, slowly and securely leading us to ruin," she asks.

Resurrecting 'Tekuma'

The controversy around Channel 1's series *Tekuma*, and the demand to take it off the air on the grounds that is distorts Zionism and identifies with the Palestinians, "is an indication of our lack of confidence in our own righteousness, 50 years after the establishment of the state," declares *Ha'aretz*'s Gideon Levy.

He adds that the presentation of the truth from the Palestinian standpoint could have been "not only a rare opportunity to enrich the mind intellectually, but also an opportunity to test out true strength."

Prof. Ze'ev Tzahor in *Yediot* claims that broadcasting the series was risky because it deals with controversial issues.

"Whoever feels that the representation damages his own truth can console himself that it will not be the last version... the best [versions] will always remain controversial."

LAU

Continued from Page 1

He added that he is full of appreciation for the righteous gentiles.

However, he also expressed the Jewish disillusionment with all of European civilization and Christianity. "Europe was a lake of frozen Jewish blood. On this continent of Beethoven, Goethe, and the French Revolution, the ideas of humanism, Christianity, and rationalism and the fruits of the French Revolution were terribly broken."

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

RAJOUB

Continued from Page 1

Goldman said the three had paid a condolence visit to relatives of the slain Palestinians and had attended the press conference to prove that Israel wants peace.

Rajoub referred to last Friday's incidents in Hebron's Abu Sneineh neighborhood, when some 30 settlers stormed into the area, which is under Palestinian control, and smashed car windshields and stoned Palestinians, after shots had been fired at the Jewish Quarter hours before.

"This is our red line," he declared and claimed some 100 Palestinians were injured during riots that ensued.

Meanwhile, Hebron police said none of the settlers who were summoned for questioning regarding last Friday's events in Abu Sneineh, which involved violating an order declaring the area a closed military zone, had shown up.

Police said if they do not, they will be forced to seek warrants for the settlers' arrest. MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) demanded that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein investigate the violations of the law committed by the Hebron settlers.

Rubinstein said violent people who attack Palestinians and damage their property should be brought to justice and treated like any other citizen who violates the law.

After receiving strong protests from settlers, the Prime Minister's Office asked the Foreign Ministry to amend a cable which had been sent to Israeli missions abroad regarding the recent disturbances in Hebron, to add that the disturbances began after shots were fired at the Hebron Jewish community from the Abu Sneineh neighborhood.

VATICAN

Continued from Page 1

A footnote lists statements made in his favor by prominent Jews of the time. The document did not move the pope's position beyond what he expressed last fall to a seminar on anti-Jewish relations:

"In the Christian world – I do not say on the part of the Church as such – erroneous and unjust interpretations of the New Testament regarding the Jewish people" engendered "feelings of hostility toward this people...

"We cannot know how many Christians in countries occupied or ruled by the Nazi powers or their allies were horrified at the disappearance of their Jewish neighbors and yet were not strong enough to raise their voices in protest," the document said.

"We deeply regret the errors and failures of those sons and daughters of the Church."

The document did take to task "governments of some Western countries of Christian tradition, including some in North and South America" for being "more than hesitant to open their borders to the persecuted Jews."

Many Jewish leaders were not impressed. Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, a Holocaust survivor, demanded an "explicit apology for the shameful attitude of the pope [Pius XII] at the time."

Instead, the document defended Pius XII for using his first encyclical, in 1939, at the start of his papacy, to warn "against theories which denied the unity of the human race and against the deification of the state," and which could all lead to a real "hour of darkness."

"The document rings hollow," said Abraham Foxman, US national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "It is an apologia full of rationalization for Pope Pius XII and the Church. It takes very little moral and historical responsibility for the Church's historic teaching for the contempt of Jews. It talks about the past in question marks rather than providing answers.

"We are perplexed how the Vatican, under the leadership of Pope John Paul II, could have finalized a document that lags behind the unequivocal statements of the German and French bishops."

Last fall, French bishops apologized for their silence during the deportation of Jews, and German bishops have said that the Church did not do enough to fight Nazism and condemn the Holocaust.

Rabbi David Rosen, director of the ADL's Israel office welcomed the Vatican's reflection on the Shoah as "part of a historic process of self-criticism on the part of the Church of its past teaching and conduct."

But he expressed "regret that the document has not gone as far as the pope himself," noting that the document was a step backwards from the pope's apostolic letter, "Tertio Millennio Adveniente"

Paragraph 36 of the letter speaks of the "acquiescence shown by many Christians concerning the violation of fundamental human rights by totalitarian regimes."

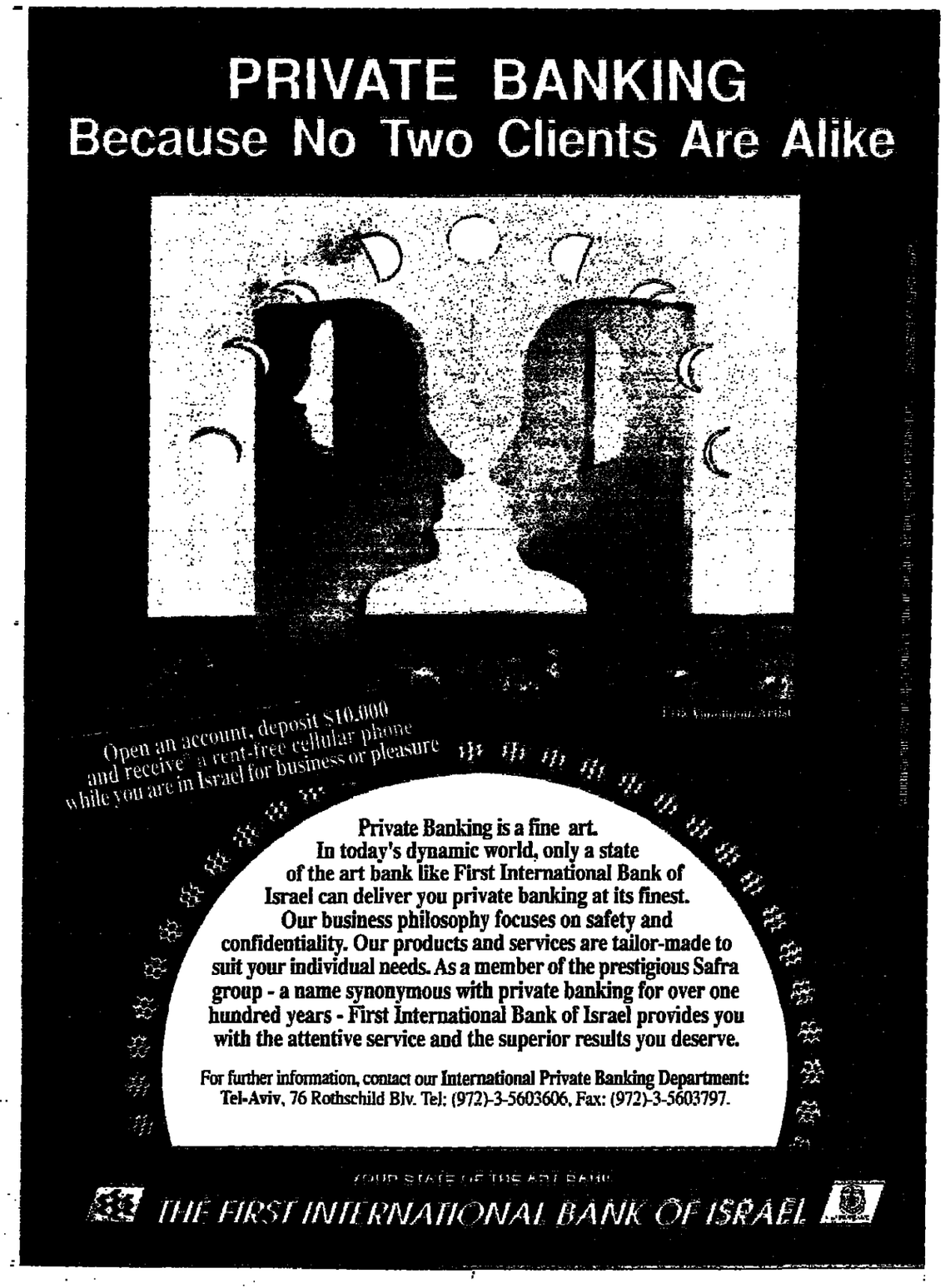
The Shoah document asks only, "Did anti-Jewish sentiment among Christians make them less sensitive, or even indifferent, to the persecutions launched against the Jews by National Socialism when it reached power?" Rabbi Mark Wiener, chief rabbi of the West London Synagogue, said, "There are positive aspects, but the Shoah document is weak in a number of areas. It obviously had to be filtered through the more conservative elements of the Curia, which are far behind the pope himself."

"Now there must be a massive thrust for opening the archives on World War II," Weiner said.

But Tullia Zevi, president of the Federation of Italian Jewish Communities, called the document "an important step forward in the right direction."

"The Church is slow moving," she said. "One must know its language, and if it speaks of teshuva this means it recognizes its past errors." Regarding the Jewish testimonies in support of Pius XII, she said, "These were given in 1945, before people could get a view of the general picture. But I don't know why people expect the Church to speak against Pius XII. If the Church is calling for teshuva, this itself means that not everything was right under Pius XII's papacy." The Australian Cardinal Cassidy defended his commission's work.

"It's more than an apology. We feel we need to repent... for those members of our church who failed" to do enough, he said.



Nativ's secret activities to end

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has reportedly given orders to stop the clandestine activities of Nativ in the former Soviet Union and for the organization to concentrate solely on matters connected with aliya.

This decision, which is in line with demands voiced by the Mossad and General Security Service, emerged yesterday at a closed meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee's subcommittee on security affairs.

The prime minister was reporting back to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat and subcommittee members Yossi Katz (Labor) and Uzi Landau (Likud) on the secret section of Ben-Porat's highly critical report on Nativ.

Also present at the meeting were Nativ head Ya'acov Kedmi, who came under fire in the report's public part, and senior security officials including Col. Shimon Shapira, acting military aide to the premier.

Netanyahu said he had appointed Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky to implement the decisions of a government committee consisting of the various bodies involved in the subject and headed by a senior officer. The idea, Netanyahu stressed, is to completely reorganize Nativ.

Katz, who previously called for Kedmi's dismissal, said he is not sure the Nativ head would be able to implement the reorganization. Kedmi reportedly replied that if he could not live with the recommendations, he would put the good of the state before his personal aspirations.



Support from Sara

Sara Netanyahu welcomes a group of young people with Down's syndrome to the prime minister's residence for a meeting yesterday sponsored by the Yated association for children with Down's syndrome. (Isaac Harari)

Shahal's 27-year career as MK ends tomorrow

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Moshe Shahal will retire from the Knesset tomorrow after 27 years as an MK.

Shahal, who has threatened several times in the past to leave the House in favor of his private legal practice in Haifa, surprised his colleagues yesterday when he announced his retirement from politics at the Labor party faction meeting in the Knesset.

"The internal contradictions in the new parliamentary system are not to my liking," said Shahal, who is also a former police, communications and energy minister. "The new structure does not suit my character."

Shahal asked that his friends "not deliver the usual eulogies... I want to quote what is written under a sundial in Pisa," he said: "I count the years of light." Former Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, who said he was surprised by the suddenness of the announcement, said he knew that "80 MKs are needed to dismiss a prime minister, but I thought that 80 signatures would be sufficient to prevent [Shahal] from leaving."

He was referring to a cross-party petition from MKs to Shahal to remain on as an MK after he announced his intention earlier.

Labor faction chairman Elie Goldschmidt described Shahal as "one of the best - if not the best - parliamentarians in Israel... This is the opinion of all the factions," he said, "because they all signed, begging him to remain."

He said that, whenever in doubt, Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak suggested consulting Shahal on how things should be done. "This is a very sad day for us," he said.

Taiba Mayor Rafik Haj Yihye, who is next on the Labor list, will replace Shahal.

Meat Law passes first reading

By LIAT COLLINS

The so-called Meat Law, preserving the ban on the import of non-kosher meat, passed first reading in the Knesset last night 65-18, with five abstentions.

The amendment lifts the four-year time limit on the ban, which came into force under Yitzhak Rabin's government.

As part of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, it needed 61 MKs to pass, and it was not clear until the voting took place that it had that number.

Most Labor MKs voted with their feet and were not present after their faction decided they could not support it but only vote against, abstain or not participate.

The government managed to muster enough votes after Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi answered a call by coalition members Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way and separated the Meat Law from the Basic Law.

This meant that the ban on importing non-kosher meat will have no time limit, but the four-year limit will still apply to other laws which might conflict with the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, such as laws related to employment on Shabbat. Gesher and Moledet MKs voted with the coalition.

Tsomet was divided on the issue. Its leader, Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, was not present for the vote. A minister who votes against the government in a no-confidence motion or motion requiring a special majority must automatically resign from the Cabinet.

Eitan said he opposed the bill and therefore absented himself. "As a representative of the silent secular majority in the government, I see the bill as a change in the status quo against the interests of the secular public," Eitan said.

Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg voted against the law, but Omer Mayor and Tsomet MK Pini Badash supported it.

All Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs voted in favor except for Marina Solodkin, who was present but did not participate.

After the vote, Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said Labor's decision to oppose the bill is a "significant and crass political mistake and shows hypocrisy of the strongest nature."

She said the majority of the Israeli public supported the ban on the import of non-kosher meat and "would remember this during the elections. It seems that even the Labor Party in its desperate situation understands that the Prime Minister's Office is growing further away from it and is turning into a mirage in the desert."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Labor had again proven it is an absentee party. "Labor is supporting religious coercion, which will not only get into our noses but will stick itself into our plates," he said.

Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein said the Knesset is gradually eroding the principles of the Basic Law.

United Torah Judaism's Moshe Gafni said Labor had acted "unwisely, un-Jewishly and immorally."

Peretz kicks Meretz out of Histadrut coalition

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz yesterday broke up his coalition by ejecting Meretz from the leadership, following its forming a rival list with Gesher for the Histadrut elections in June.

"After a four-year partnership, Meretz is creating a bad atmosphere which is making it impossible for the Histadrut to function," Peretz said. "Instead of looking out for the workers' interests, all Meretz is occupied with is its chances in the Knesset elections."

Meretz was part of the New Life faction formed by MK Haim Ramon together with his list, Ram, and Shas, which won the Histadrut elections four years ago. Peretz was Ramon's No. 2, and "inherited" the position of Histadrut chief after Ramon returned to the government and to Labor.

Now Meretz will have to give up five seats in the Histadrut leadership and the positions of heads of the administration and planning divisions.

Peretz said he decided to break up the partnership with Meretz after learning it was negotiating behind his back for months with Gesher to field Gesher's Maxim Levy for Histadrut chairman.

"While I was busy with the big workers' battles and strikes, Meretz was busy with politics, homing onto the anti-haredi niche to promote its Knesset chances," Peretz said.

He said he had refused to accept Shas's objections to a joint list with Meretz, and worked on forming a broad coalition with Meretz and the Likud, but Meretz refused to be in the same coalition as the Likud.

"Most of the workers are on the right, yet they supported my leadership when I fought for them. Why should I throw them into the Likud's arms when I can form a coalition with their leaders?" Peretz asked.

Meretz leaders were furious with Peretz's decision to expel them from the coalition.

"It's strange that now Peretz should talk of a breach of confidence. Why, he is only head of the Histadrut by virtue of our joint list, in which Meretz was a key factor and crucial to its victory," Knesset whip Haim Oron said.

Oron said Peretz's "secret decision" without consulting Meretz or Labor, to form a coalition with the Likud was the main reason for Meretz's decision not to join his list in the approaching elections.

Sharansky walks thin line by siding with government

By LIAT COLLINS

During the tense voting on the first reading of the Meat Law, which in effect extends without a time limit the current ban on the import of non-kosher meat, Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Natan Sharansky waited in the hall outside.

Only at the last moment, as the names of absentee MKs were being called for a second time, Sharansky came in and voted when it looked like the government did not have the necessary 61 votes for the bill to pass.

MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) later said Sharansky found the bill problematic as industry and trade minister because of the possible conflicts with international free trade agreements.

But other onlookers saw it as a sign of a problem of a different nature – the conflict between the ban on the import of non-kosher meat and the large Russian-speaking public which supports the party and is a major consumer of such meat.

After discussing the issue in a faction meeting, all Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs decided to support the bill except Marina Solodkin, who was present but did not participate, citing "reasons of conscience."

Stern explained his party's apparent turnaround in favor of the bill by the fact that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had agreed to separate the Meat Law from the Basic Law.

"It's because of our insistence that now the government must explain annually to the Knesset why there is a time limit on different bills conflicting with the Basic Law: Freedom of Employment.

"This is a clear sign to both the Knesset and the High Court that such bylaws and legislation are only temporary and can be changed," Stern said.

MK Sofa Landver (Labor) said Yisrael Ba'aliya had turned its back on its public, and Meretz whip Haim Oron also said the immigrants' party sold out its public.

Stern said in response: "Sofa should look at her own party first before criticizing ours."

Stern, who said he keeps kosher, added that the bill only preserves the current status quo which bans the import of non-kosher meat but not the sale of non-kosher meat in Israel.

"It could be considered a bill encouraging the local production of non-kosher meat," he quipped.

He noted that Oron's vote against the bill in this sense hurt the interests of Oron's own kibbutz, which produces non-kosher meat products.

Katz praises Vanunu decision

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday seemed surprised when he and his government received lavish praise for removing nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu from solitary confinement from State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor).

In the first part of Netanyahu's appearance yesterday before the committee's subcommittee on security affairs, which was open to the media, Katz praised the security forces for making the decision about Vanunu.

"I am pleased to see that they weighed human rights," said Katz, who had made a "humanitarian" visit to Vanunu shortly before the decision was taken. "Without detracting from the extreme gravity of his act, I hope that the next step will be Vanunu's release from prison," he said.

Knesset hosts Israeli celebrities

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset, no stranger to the famous, yesterday hosted a large number of the 140 contributors to the *Israel's Jubilee* book, edited by Chaim Yavin. The personalities gathered in the Knesset auditorium included politicians, entertainers, leading legalists, financiers and journalists.

An exhibition of drawings by Haim Topol which illustrate the book was also on display. The drawings were donated by Topol to Variety Israel.

Among the contributors present were Abba Eban, Topol, David Bar-Illan, Edna Arbel, Ilanit, Shoshana Damari, Yehoram Gaon, Michael Ben-Yair, Uri Dann, Dan Propper, Natan Yonatan, Raya Harnick, Aharon Megged, Didi Menussi, Meir Uziel, Dvora Omer, Orna Porat, Doron Rosenblum, Michael Dak, Plia Elbeck, Uri Avneri, Uzi Baram, Yosef Burg and Nurit Galron.

Reflecting the eclectic nature of the writers, the gathering was addressed by an equally diverse panel that included Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, National Religious Party leader Yitzhak Levy, Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal, Labor MK Yossi Beilin and Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi.

Baking at night to become legal

Bakeries not only will be able to continue working at night, they'll be able to do so legally under a bill by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg which the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee approved for first reading yesterday.

Zandberg found that under legislation passed in 1951 under David Ben-Gurion and never amended it is legally forbidden for bakeries to operate at night and before 6 a.m.

The ban was made to ensure workers could rest at night.

"Night baking harms the workers' health and lifestyle and is not necessary for supplies," the original law states.

Zandberg noted that not only is the law not enforced today, but that most bakeries operate at night. Zandberg added that the ban also violates the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation.

Bill would ban sleeping in public places

MK Avraham Poraz yesterday submitted a bill which would making sleeping in public places illegal.

"Lately we have seen an increase in the number of homeless people on the streets. Under the current legislation, there is no ban on sleeping in public places such as the streets, parks and beaches unless it is forbidden by a bylaw," Poraz said. "This bill is an attempt to make the local authorities aware of the problem and deal with it more seriously."

He said under the law he proposes, police would have to take homeless people off the streets and the social services would have to make an effort to rehabilitate and house them.

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Justices oppose minimum penalty for domestic violence perpetrators

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Supreme Court justices yesterday objected to the idea of a minimum penalty for perpetrators of domestic violence, at a meeting between the justices and the members of the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women.

At the same time, the justices urged the MKs to legislate the basic law of human rights, despite the clause which prevents it from overruling previous laws – including those discriminating against women in a family framework.

The meeting, the first of its kind between the Supreme Court justices and the Committee for the Status of Women, was attended by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, Dalia Dorner, Tova Strasberg Cohen, Dorit Beinish, Mishael Heshin, Eliyahu Matza, Yaakov Tirkel and Yosef Goldenberg.

"The Supreme Court justices told us to go for the human-rights law, despite the fact that the marriage and divorce laws remain intact. This means that perhaps in the wake of this basic law, other things can be done," MK Yossi Beilin said after the meeting.

Beilin said that until yesterday's meeting he had been against the human-rights legislation as long as clause 21, preventing the new law from overruling previous discriminatory laws, is included.

But after hearing the justices' opinion he could change his mind, he said.

However, Committee Chairman Yael Dayan and other members objected to legislating the basic human-rights law according to the present proposal, which includes clause 21.

Dayan demanded legislating minimum penalty laws for crimes of domestic sexual abuse and violence, including child abuse, in view of the light penalties, such as probational sentences, handed down by the courts to those found guilty.

Most of the justices objected to setting inflexible minimum penalties by law, which leave the judge no leeway for judicial discretion.

Barak said the justices have altered their approach towards violence against women and children.

Commenting on the meetings between MKs and justices, Barak said he felt "somewhat uncomfortable" with it in view of the principle of independence between the legislative and judiciary authorities, but afterwards told Beilin he has not yet formed his opinion and still had to think about it.

Beilin said "we meet them anyway, in social circles and events, and we talk informally and discuss legal issues. Why not do it in an orderly, official procedure, which will be open to the media? The justices have already met the Knesset's Constitutional Committee and I don't recall any reservations after that meeting."

The MKs raised the issue of women's equality and affirmative action. Dorner said there is no need for affirmative action in the legal system, where qualifications count rather than personal connections, as in other places.

J'lem gets new police station

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

A new Jerusalem police station was opened yesterday between East Talpiot and Jabel Mukhaber.

"This building that we're opening today is a significant addition to the security of Jerusalem, to the security of the inhabitants, and to the security and the peace of the entire area," said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. "I said security and peace of the area because we believe that to be the basis for peace in every place, and particularly in this place – in Jerusalem."

The station will house 34 district policemen and over 60 border policemen, at a site that had long been a trouble spot. Beginning with the intifada, resident youths from the Arab village had thrown stones and caused considerable damage to the houses in East Talpiot.

Netanyahu said that "in Jerusalem, Jews and Arabs have lived together for many generations, sometimes peacefully, sometimes with tensions. The formula was always very straightforward: The more that law and order was reinforced, the greater was the resultant peace and security between the two communities."

East Talpiot resident Danby Meital said that the police presence won't necessarily prevent stone-throwing, "but at least they are right there so that the minute they're called, it'll take them a second to come around. So that's a big plus."

Meital said she hoped the area was "beyond the stone-throwing stage, because things have been quiet for so long."

Another resident, Judy Segal, said the new police station "probably should have been built a long time ago, but it's a very positive thing not just for us, but also for the residents of Jabel Mukhaber."

She said there are "a lot of problems in the village that are not related to us, but are internal problems, and I feel that for their own security, it will be good. And it will certainly make our neighborhood feel more secure knowing that there is a police station next door."

Meital said the problems of the village include an increase in drugs, which she said would probably be reduced with the presence of the police.

The ceremony was also attended by Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk, Jerusalem chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, who said another station would be opened soon in the north, and more police would be stationed in the Old City.



Greeting new immigrants

Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal cuddles one of the Falash Mura children who arrived at the Givat Hamatos mobile home camp in Jerusalem on Sunday, as the baby's mother looks on. The committee toured the site yesterday and met many of the new arrivals. (Bryan McBurney)

Freak weather storms hit country

By DAVID RUDGE

There was grit in the eyes and just about everywhere else yesterday, when a sandstorm whipped by winds gusting at up to 90 kilometers an hour swept the country.

Within the space of a few hours, even the most verdant places had taken on a desert outlook. The density of the sand particles in the air was such that even the rays of the sun were shrouded and turned into a golden glow.

Some experts said the sand picked up by the strong winds may have been brought from as far away as the Sahara. Others pointed to deserts closer to home, such as Sinai and the Negev.

The sandstorms closed regional airports throughout the country, although Ben-Gurion Airport continued to operate.

Even worse hit were Egypt and Lebanon, where the storms closed the international airports in Cairo and Beirut, according to agency reports.

According to the reports, the Ferris wheel at Beirut's fairground, which withstood all the attacks and devastation during the 15-year civil war, was bowled over by the wind.

Cyprus and Turkey also felt the effects of the storm.

Zvi Alperson, director of the Israel Meteorological Service, said the sandstorm was caused by a hot low pressure system that developed over North Africa. Strong southerly winds swept the depression northward via Egypt and Israel causing the sandstorm, which is a rare phenomenon, but is more likely to occur during the transitional period between winter and summer.

Alperson said that such events occurred on an average of once every five years, although this particular weather system was rarer than most because of the strength of the winds and density of the sand particles.

It was also marked by the lowest atmospheric pressure recorded here in the past 35 years.

Alperson noted that the storm did not appear to be connected to El Nino.

"We forecast at the beginning of the winter that this phenomenon was unlikely to affect the Middle East, although we did not rule out the possibility of some aberrations," he said.

By mid-afternoon the sandstorms had been replaced by driving rain, as the depression shifted from the south to a more westerly direction, picking up a cold front en route.

The cold weather is expected to reach a peak tomorrow, with snow forecast for Mt. Hermon, parts of the Golan and Galilee peaks, including possibly Safed.

The rain elsewhere in the country is expected to be accompanied by thunderstorms in places, as well as continuing strong southwesterly winds. The stormy weather is forecast to die out by Thursday, although it will remain colder than usual for the time of year.

Fishermen rescued after 7-hour ordeal

Three fishermen were rescued after a seven-hour ordeal at sea when they lost control of their small boat off Haifa because of the stormy weather.

Police spokesman Supt. Moshe Nissan said the fishermen had left Haifa port in their boat around 6 a.m. The alarm was raised by friends and relative when they did not return after several hours.

"The sea was very stormy, with strong winds and big waves, especially for such a small boat in which they were sailing," said Nissan.

Coastal police and the Israel Navy were put on the alert and searches mounted for the missing crew.

"In the afternoon, around 1 p.m., a navy ship spotted a red flare at sea and a coastal police boat went to the area," said Nissan. "They found that the fishermen had tied their boat to a buoy, about three nautical miles from the coast, that marks the entrance for shipping to Haifa port.

"The fishermen were exhausted and almost on their last legs when they were found," he said.

The coastal police towed the fishing boat back to Kishon harbor in the Haifa bay. The boat had apparently suffered engine failure and had not been able to negotiate the huge waves. *D.R.*

Suissa pays first ministerial visit to Golan Druse since '91

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Everything must be done to try to get permission for members of Druse families divided between the Golan Heights and Syria to visit each other, Interior Minister Eli Suissa said yesterday, during a visit to Druse towns on the Golan Heights.

During his visit – the first by a minister to Druse on the Golan since 1991 – Suissa also said the Interior Ministry branch on the Golan, which had been closed several months ago due to a manpower shortage, would be reopened.

Suissa said he made the visit to learn about the problems of the communities there first hand.

All the local authority officials and other Druse dignitaries who met with Suissa said they hoped the visit would help strengthen relations between Druse and Jews on the Golan.

Suissa helped to arrange a *sulha* between two feuding local council heads who were not speaking to each other.

NEWS *in brief*

Gasoline down slightly

The price of gasoline and many other fuels dropped last night at midnight. Both 95 and 96 octane gasoline went down just over two percent, and are now NIS 3.22 a liter. Other drops include jet fuel, down 10.74%, heating oil, down 7.66%, and diesel fuel for transport down 8.21%. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Body found near Lod bus station

The body of an unidentified man in his late 20s was found yesterday afternoon in an abandoned building near the central bus station in Lod. A syringe was found next to the body. Police said that there were no signs of violence on the body and that it appeared that the man had overdosed. The body was taken to the National Forensics Institute in Abu Kabir. *Itim*

Third Way demands to appoint ambassador

Third Way chairman and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday asked Prime Minister Netanyahu to fulfill his coalition agreement with the party and allow it to appoint a new ambassador to the European Union. The current ambassador, Ephraim Halevy, is stepping down in the next few weeks to head the Mossad. *Itim*

Ministries argue about foreign workers

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday accused Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush of "spreading disinformation regarding the distribution of permits for foreign workers."

Yishai, who heads the ministerial committee on foreign workers, said that at a meeting on Sunday, the committee denied contractors' request to increase the number of permits for foreign workers in the construction industry. He said that 35,000 permits will be issued, and not 50,000 as Porush had announced.

In response, the Housing Ministry said that there was a misunderstanding regarding what had been agreed upon at the meeting and emphasized that unless the construction industry is allowed at least 50,000 foreign workers, prices for new apartments would rise sharply and the industry would collapse. *Itim*

Dudu Topaz loses libel suit

Dudu Topaz yesterday lost his libel suit over a gossip column written about him that appeared in *Ha'ir* in August 1995. Topaz had sued the Shocken newspaper chain, reporter Shahaf Segel and *Ha'ir* editor Yossi Klein for NIS 250,000.

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Hanna Yanun ruled that while the column had been written with the intention of hurting and insulting Topaz, it was not libelous. *Itim*

Wife murderer suspect says he's sitting shiva

Shimon Amzaleg, who is suspected of murdering his wife Revital, told Haifa Magistrate's Court that he is sitting shiva for her in his jail cell. Amzaleg, who allegedly stabbed her to death with a pocketknife, said he had stabbed her accidentally when her mother had pushed him and he fell. "This happened as a result of the fall, and I don't pose a danger to anyone," the 25-year-old Haifa man said. The court extended his remand for six days. *Itim*

Study: Most learning disabled children are boys

Boys are more likely to suffer from a learning disability than girls, and two-thirds of the children dealt with by Nitzan, the organization for the learning disabled, are boys, director-general Dorit Raslansky said yesterday. She was speaking in the presence of the president's wife Reuma Weizman, as Nitzan, along with five organizations for the hearing impaired, prepared for its annual fund-raising campaign. Ludmilla Tichon, wife of the Knesset Speaker and president of Nitzan, also was present *Itim*

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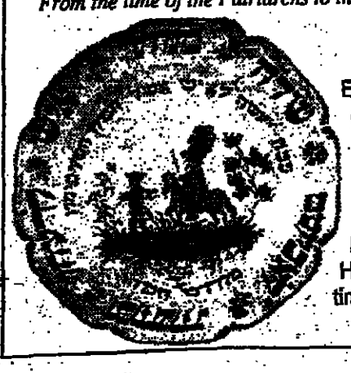
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Paddy's island

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Today is St. Patrick's Day. It is a day that divides those who were born and raised on Paddy's island from those who weren't.

Those who weren't wear green hats and drink green beer and say things like "Begorragh, and the top of the morning to yourself" in foul American-Irish accents. They all have Irish grandmothers – that's the outer limit of Irish halacha. Once during a three-month slice of life in Orlando, Florida, I noted in a diary that 122 people had told me they had Irish grandmothers – that's an average of 10 a week. It is embarrassing to be Irish in certain parts of America on St. Patrick's Day, just as it must be embarrassing to be Italian in some Italian-American enclaves, or Israeli in Jewish-American ones.

In New York City, the white line that marks the center of Fifth Avenue is painted green for a green parade. At this year's Washington parade, Mayor Marion Barry wore a green scarf. He probably smokes green stuff. The most impressive true natives in the parade were a team of impeccably behaved Irish terriers.

Only from America

Ignorance abounds. Once when the New York Parade was led by Dublin's legendary lord mayor, Bob Briscoe, a radio announcer proclaimed that "only in America" could a Jew lead an Irish parade. How about a native-born Irish patriot leading a pseudo-Irish–New York parade, dumbo? (Briscoe was not even Dublin's first Jewish lord mayor. Some 50 years before independence, in 1876, Lewis Harris overcame years of obstructive prejudice from the ruling British establishment and was elected by a huge majority of Dubliners.) America has a rare talent for trivializing and Disney-fying the national cultures of its former immigrants. It makes one applaud the French for their spirited fight against the Americanization of Europe.

Unfortunately, what little there is to be seen of St. Patrick's Day in Israel is of the foul American-hybrid variety. There are some new Irish pubs in Tel Aviv that are about as Irish as a haredi pub in Dublin would be.

Cheap green balloons and U2 blasting at a volume that kills all conversation, except for screaming in Hebrew into a score of cell phones, do not add up to an Irish evening. Barring the Irish embassy's warm annual reception, it's a wasteland out there. It would be far better if Israelis ignored St. Patrick's Day altogether. Those who visit Ireland invariably are captivated by the country and the people, so why spoil the image by importing yet another tacky American invention?

O'Zion

Relations between a small Catholic island in the north Atlantic and a small Jewish nation in an ocean of Arab states are understandably tenuous, but they do exist, and not via New York.

It is well known that Theodor Herzl said he wanted to be "the Charles Stewart Parnell of the Jews" and that Yitzhak Shamir took the underground name of Michael Collins. (Parnell was an unfortunate comparison. He was destroyed by an internal squabble that wrecked Irish national unity for decades.) It is not so well known that Mayor Briscoe, dedicated to the revolutionary path for independence in both Ireland and Israel, was first an ardent fund-raiser for Michael Collins's IRA, and then for the Irgun Zva'i Leumi. Even less well known is an Irishman's original suggestion for a world Zionist organization – 25 years before Herzl founded it.

In 1872, Isaac Ashe, a (non-Jewish) Dubliner and graduate of Trinity College, wrote a historic letter to the *Jewish Chronicle* suggesting the establishment of a world Zionist organization. He savaged a previous correspondent who had referred to the Jews as "a dead nation" and Ashe wrote that the Jews had all the right attributes to revitalize nationhood: "a common origin, a common history, a common faith." He lamented that no organization existed to bind these links into national aspirations.

"The establishment of such an organization is obviously from a common-sense point of view the first step toward [Jewish] national resurrection."

Opposites – a tract

Ireland's Jewish community – mainly of Lithuanian origin – was never more than 5,000 strong, yet it has been more of a visible presence in the country's political life than the substantial Protestant minority. In the 18th century both Catholics and Jews were excluded from public service in Dublin. A prominent Dubliner, Judah Abrahams, had converted to Protestantism and wrote tracts urging his fellow Jews to follow suit in their best interests.

He was slapped down by a fiery Donegal Catholic, John Toland, who in 1714 wrote a spirited pamphlet against the British demanding equality before the law for all Irish.

It was titled "Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain and Ireland" and was subtitled "Containing Also a Defense of the Jews Against All Vulgar Prejudices in All Countries." The late president Chaim Herzog's father was a fluent Gaelic speaker and a close friend of the other revolutionary leader, Eamonn de Valera. He had the unique distinction of being the first chief rabbi of two new nations, the Irish Free State and the State of Israel.

However, not all Irish writers on Jewish-Irish affairs had the erudition of an Ashe or a Toland or a Herzog. Leave it to a journalist to plumb the depths of ignorance. In 1949 an *Irish Times* reporter proudly announced the appointment of a new and a really, truly, Irish chief rabbi. That was "Doctor Jack O'Bovits."

Have a nice Paddy's Day.

Anatomy of a criminal

By TERENCE MONMANEY



USC psychologist Adrian Raine has scanned the brains of convicted killers in California, noting patterns that might predispose them to murder.
(Los Angeles Times photo by Bob Carey)

LOS ANGELES – Except for the time he was stabbed in the neck, Adrian Raine's involvement with violent crime has been strictly scientific.

The 44-year-old University of Southern California psychologist has scanned the brains of convicted killers in California, noting patterns that might incline them to murderousness. In Denmark, he and his coworkers showed that babies who endured birth complications and were also rejected by their mothers were more likely than other babies to become violent offenders as young adults. On the island of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, his research team found that the lower a 3-year-old's resting heart rate, the more likely it is the child will be an unusually aggressive adolescent. Raine's far-flung – and to some, far-fetched – studies, updated recently in scientific journals, add to his reputation as a pioneer of a new approach to understanding how violent behavior takes hold of some people.

His research is increasingly cited in criminal trials, and experts have praised his scholarship as being impeccable. "He's extraordinarily productive," said Dr. James Breiling of the institute. At the same time, some researchers and social critics are wary of probing biology's role in criminal or violent behavior.

Theories of deviant behavior have been used to justify atrocities, from turn-of-the-century US programs to sterilize the "feebleminded" to Nazi genocide. But Raine and other proponents of the research argue that many vital issues have not yet been addressed. Most people who live in the midst of poverty and unemployment do not commit violent crimes, they say, which only raises the question of what individual factors might spur people with the same background to commit mayhem. Raine is a leading proponent of the view that a biological predisposition to violence is a clinical disorder, with roots in childhood or even the womb. Among the implications that he draws from his work is that a comprehensive approach to preventing violence should include prenatal care and parenting services in poor communities. This would reduce complicated births and improve the mother-child relations that he believes can influence criminal behavior.

Equally unusual is Raine's stance on capital punishment: Although he opposes executing convicted killers whose upbringing could have engendered a biological tendency toward violence, he favors executing others whose past lacks such circumstances. His views on crime and punishment are informed by more than theory.

While on vacation in Turkey nine years ago, he awoke in the middle of the night and found a knife-wielding burglar at the foot of the bed. The men wrestled. The altercation left Raine with a two-inch scar on his neck, a hyper-awareness of noises in the night, and new empathy with the victims of violence. "I nearly died and I wanted that man to suffer," he said of the intruder, who was arrested and convicted. "So I can understand when people say, 'Oh, let's forget the touchy-feely research on crime.'"

The most convincing of Raine's research efforts, scholars say, is the newly updated study in Denmark. It involves more than 4,000 boys born at a Copenhagen hospital between 1959 and 1961. The researchers took note of medically complicated pregnancies and births, including difficult, feet-first deliveries and those requiring forceps. The researchers also tried to assess whether each mother shunned her child, as indicated by an abortion request or placement in foster care in the first year.

Decades later, the researchers checked the Danish criminal registry for the now-grown men. Although only 4% of the subjects had difficult births and suffered maternal rejection, they were responsible for 22% of the crime documented in adulthood. The long-running study has provided the first evidence that both physical and social stresses may interact to enhance a tendency toward criminal violence many years later, Raine and his co-authors say. Perhaps the most unlikely possible predictor of a violent tendency that Raine and colleagues have uncovered is resting heart rate in children, which they have been studying on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. It involved testing 1,795 3-year-olds in 1972 and 1973. When the children were 11, their parents filled out questionnaires assessing temperament and behavior. Overall, children who had a lower resting heart rate at age three were more than twice as likely to be categorized as aggressive at 11, compared to those with higher heart rates. Paradoxical as it sounds, other researchers have found the same thing.

There are two possible ways that heart rate might be related to aggressive behavior, Raine speculates. First, other studies have shown that a low heart rate can reflect fearlessness, a quality that could not only get children into trouble but perhaps blunt the effect of punishment. Second, children with a low heart rate might seek out excitement for stimulation; like well-conditioned athletes, they crave action – "stimulation seeking," Raine calls it.

Although some researchers say that the link between heart rate and aggression is still too weak to mean much, Raine suggests that children with a low heart rate might be less likely to go wrong if communities provide creative and physical outlets, from piano lessons to soccer practice. But he has also gone so far as to suggest tests on children's resting heart rate, and that those at the lower end of the scale get special attention – perhaps even biofeedback sessions to coax the heart rate higher – if other factors also point in the direction of aggression or delinquency.

Raine acknowledges that his research has shortcomings. "A real criticism of the work I do is it's too simplistic," he said. "I know that ultimately it's not that simple. But I have to do this work because there is no

'Titanic' graves attract tourists to Halifax

By DAVID CRARY

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia – Two days after the *Titanic* sank in 1912, a cable repair ship sailed from Halifax with a sad cargo: blocks of ice, embalming fluid and stacks of empty coffins. Two weeks later, the *Mackay-Bennett* was back, bearing 190 bodies pulled from the North Atlantic. Most of the bodies went unclaimed and were buried here.

The graves give Halifax a unique bond to the disaster. And, along with artifacts retrieved from the sea – including an intact *Titanic* deck chair – now on display at a harbor-front museum, the city hopes to convert that tie into a tourist boom in this year of Hollywood-fueled *Titanic*-mania.

The *Mackay-Bennett* was the first of three Halifax ships sent to search for the more than 1,500 *Titanic* victims. Together, the ships found 328 bodies – 119 were buried at sea and the rest were brought the 700 miles (1,100 kilometers) to Halifax.

When the *Mackay-Bennett* reached the disaster site on April 20, 1912, the crewmen were staggered by what they saw. "As far as the eye could see, the ocean was strewn with wreckage and debris, with bodies bobbing up and down in the cold sea," crewman Arminias Wiseman wrote.

The *Mackay-Bennett*'s cranes, normally used for working on undersea cables, hauled bodies out of the water. Other dead were retrieved by crewmen in small boats. "It was hazardous, brutal work," said Dan Conlin, a curator at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. "The bodies were surrounded by floes of ice."

On April 30, the *Mackay-Bennett*, dubbed by Halifax newspapers "the death ship," approached the dock yards. Church bells tolled, flags hung at half-mast and hearses lined the piers.

Even in death, class barriers were preserved. The bodies of first-class passengers were unloaded in coffins, second- and third-class in canvas bags, crewmen on open stretchers.

Onlookers lined the route as hearses drove to a curling rink at the edge of town. Relatives and friends of the victims began arriving to claim their dead. Of the 209 bodies eventually brought to the rink, 59 were claimed and taken away. The rest were buried in three Halifax cemeteries.

The biggest group of *Titanic* graves – 121 – is on a slope at the rear of Fairview Cemetery, overlooking a railroad yard.

There are four rows of stone markers, many with a number instead of a name, and all with the same date of death: April 15, 1912.

The stones with names reflect the ethnic diversity of those on board – Italo Donati, Gustaff Johannson. A few markers, bigger than others, have inscriptions honoring the crewmen buried underneath.

"Each man stood at his post while all the weaker ones went by. And showed once more to all the world how Englishmen should die," says the verse on Everett Edward Elliott's gravestone.

One stone is marked with the name J. Dawson. According to Conlin, the man buried there is James Dawson, a crewman who worked in the engine room.

But cemetery workers say teenage girls are making pilgrimages to the grave, connecting it with Jack Dawson, the fictional hero played by Leonardo DiCaprio in the film *Titanic*. On a recent morning, a few bouquets of flowers and a ticket from a March 1 showing of the film lay on the grave.

"There are a lot of male third-class passengers buried there," Conlin said. "To think about how their lives came to end – if people can sort of mix that in with their passion for the movie and gain some insights – I think it's a good thing."

The three Halifax ships retrieved not only bodies but also artifacts that make up the core of the new *Titanic* exhibit at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The featured item is a deck chair, made partly of mahogany, with a restored cane seat. Other items include a wooden newel post and balustrade from the ship's grand staircases, part of a life jacket believed worn by John Jacob Astor, and an intricately carved panel from a door in the first-class lounge.

Also on display are two pages from a log kept by a wireless operator in Newfoundland on the night of the disaster. Robert Hunston's handwritten notes describe minute-by-minute developments as he and two colleagues at the Cape Race relay station tried to get help for the *Titanic*.

Since the exhibit opened in December, visits to the museum have been up 100 percent, said Gerry Lunn, curator for visitor services. Some 10,000 visitors came in February, compared to the normal 3,000 to 4,000.

The museum had been planning to establish a *Titanic* exhibit even before the movie began attracting notice, but it hasn't been shy about capitalizing on the film. "We'd be fools not to take advantage of what we knew would be incredible publicity," Lunn said.

For all its *Titanic* links, Halifax was more deeply scarred by another maritime disaster. During World War I, five years after the *Titanic* sinking, a French munitions ship and Norwegian relief vessel collided in the harbor, causing the largest man-made explosion of the pre-nuclear age. More than 2,000 people were killed, and 1,630 buildings destroyed by the blast, which was felt 300 miles (500 km.) away. Many victims were identified using the same system developed by the coroner who processed the *Titanic* bodies.

(AP)

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Armenia votes for a new president

YEREVAN (Reuters) – Armenians voted for a new president yesterday in a closely watched election they hope will restore their ex-Soviet republic's democratic image.

Yet even before voting had ended, that image was under fire again as the two frontrunners traded accusations about how the election was being run in their poor but strategically important country bordering Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran.

"A falsification machine is operating in the country," said Karen Demirchyan, Armenia's Soviet-era communist leader who led most preelection opinion polls after making a startling comeback following a decade of political obscurity.

"If we do not have a legitimate president this time, then the current regime we are all sick to death of will continue in power," he said in a late-night televised address, referring to Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan, the acting president.

Kocharyan, Demirchyan's main rival, dismissed the charges.

"Some of the candidates' nerves are breaking down and they are slinging mud. I'm not going to do that," he told reporters after casting his vote in the election, which is being scrutinized across the region because of oil riches in the nearby Caspian Sea basin as well as concerns for democracy.

"I'm not idealizing the situation," Kocharyan said. "Armenia does not have a decades-long tradition of holding elections and there might be some violations, although I don't think that it is possible to win or lose using fraud."

Spokesmen for both Demirchyan and Kocharyan said they had received complaints about unspecified minor irregularities.

Armenia's 1995 parliamentary election and a 1996 presidential vote were tainted by fraud which has given the mountainous republic of nearly four million people a soiled reputation abroad.

Voters braved light drizzle and chilly temperatures yesterday, lining up outside polling stations in the capital Yerevan not long after they opened at 8 a.m. (0400 GMT). The vote seemed to be proceeding smoothly in Yerevan and officials described the turnout as high. The Central Election Commission said 45 percent of the eligible 2.2 million voters had cast ballots by 5 p.m. (1300 GMT).

First results are not expected until today.

Two hundred foreign observers are monitoring voting, which was taking place at 1,597 polling stations. More than 12,000 people from the Armenian diaspora are eligible to vote.

The observers, including teams from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, say they will be playing particular attention to the count, which starts after polls close at 10 p.m. (1800 GMT).

It was there they say fraud occurred in the 1996 vote, which reelected Levon Ter-Petrosyan president. Ter-Petrosyan later used tanks and troops to quell street protests sparked by critics who said he had rigged the election. He denied this.

Ter-Petrosyan was forced to resign last month by opponents, including Kocharyan, who were furious at concessions he offered to Azerbaijan to end the bitter decade-long struggle between the two neighbors over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A runoff will be held in two weeks if, as expected, none of the 12 candidates gets more than 50% of the vote.



Presidential candidate Karen Demirchyan casts his ballot, with his granddaughter's help, yesterday in Yerevan. (Reuters)

WORLD
in brief

5 Iraqi children killed by Gulf War bomb

BAGHDAD (AP) — Five children were killed yesterday when a bomb from the Gulf War exploded in southern Iraq, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The bomb went off in the residential district of al-Hussein in Basra, the capital of the province with the same name. Two of the victims were 11-year-olds, two were 14 year-olds and one was aged 13, INA said. It said the bomb was a remnant of the "vicious Zionist and American aggression on Iraq." On January 25, a similar explosion killed 21 women and children in Basra.

US vaccinates troops in Kuwait against anthrax

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait (AP) — Inoculations for the 8,000 US soldiers in Kuwait began on Sunday after the Pentagon announced earlier this month that all 36,000 US service members in the Gulf will be vaccinated against anthrax.

To be fully immunized, each service member needs six inoculations over 18 months, followed by a booster shot every year.

UN convention on dangerous chemicals ends

BRUSSELS (AP) — Ninety-five nations have agreed on a convention to monitor and curb the use of dangerous chemicals and pesticides, setting binding legal restrictions on the $30-billion-a-year industry, the UN announced yesterday. "It will make the trade safer for mainly developing nations that import these materials," said Maria de Azevedo Rodrigues, chairwoman of the international convention. UN officials said the convention would impose important controls without completely banning the 27 products. They stressed the chemicals can be useful in limited doses, such as DDT, which is used to control malaria.

Dubai upholds death sentence for Canadian

DUBAI (Reuters) — A Dubai appeals court has upheld the death sentence against a 22-year-old Canadian for possession and dealing in drugs after police seized 5.54 grams of heroin from his home. The daily *Gulf News* said yesterday the court in the United Arab Emirates upheld a lower court's judgement sentencing the man, identified only as RDM, to death. The defendant, who was arrested in January 1996, can still appeal to the Court of Cassation. "At the request of the family we are not giving out further details," Canadian vice-consul Stephen Randall said.

UN human rights session exposes atrocities

GENEVA (AP) – The United Nations began a session to expose atrocities committed by government and other forces yesterday, as the world marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Some countries will be singled out for perpetrating abuses or atrocities, but independent champions of human rights maintain that powerful and influential nations like China and Algeria can get off scot-free.

Czech President Vaclav Havel, the lead-off guest, said the idea of human rights can play a powerful role in the collapse of tyranny. The "nonviolent struggle for observance of human rights" eventually brought about "the collapse of the totalitarian system in our country," he said.

More than 30 ministers or national leaders are scheduled to speak to the 53-nation Human Rights Commission during its six-week annual session.

"Our forefathers built the United Nations to save succeeding generations from holocaust and war, horrors which have brought untold sorrow to humankind," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in the opening address.

But the declaration will work only if it is backed by constant vigilance, with people speaking out when they see inhumanity, Annan said.

As he spoke in the European headquarters of the United Nations, about 400 ethnic Albanian women and children stood outside the specially fortified front gate in silent protest. Waving white sheets of paper, the protesters demanded an end to Serb "persecution and massacres of the Albanian population" in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

The 1948 declaration, drafted while the memory of World War II was fresh, notes that "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind." It proclaims "a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want" and covers rights such as freedom to work, own property and marry the person of one's choosing.

"But governments look set to ignore some acute human-rights situations," said Amnesty International legal director Nicholas Howen. "For the victims the anniversary will be little cause for celebration."

Both the 15-nation European Union and the US, which have led repeated attempts to pass a resolution criticizing China, have declared that they see progress in Beijing and are committed to a new, quieter method of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. Critics say the enticement of China's huge market also played a role in the decisions in Brussels and Washington to not even support a China resolution this year. The commission can do little more than condemn abuses, but that has been enough to spur China and other potential targets to mount extensive lobbying campaigns with developing countries, which dominate the commission, to avoid international opprobrium.

Amnesty said another key nation likely to avoid the scrutiny of the commission this year is Algeria, where, it said, "thousands have been hacked to death, tortured or 'disappeared.'"

Other countries listed by human-rights groups as deserving closer or more public scrutiny are Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

The countries and territories currently assigned special investigators include Afghanistan, Burundi, Cuba, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, the West Bank and Gaza, Rwanda, Sudan, and the former Yugoslavia.

Dr. Spock dies at 94

By JOHN MULLINS

BOSTON (AP) – Dr. Benjamin Spock, the pediatrician whose common-sense theories of child care helped guide parents around the world during the last half-century, died Sunday in San Diego at 94.

Farewell, Dr. Spock, Page 12

Spock's *Baby and Child Care*, first published in 1946, was the bible of parents in the baby boom that followed World War II.

"I wanted to be supportive of parents rather than to scold them," he said. "The book set out very deliberately to counteract some of the rigidities of pediatric tradition. It emphasized the importance of great differences between individual babies, of the need for flexibility and of the lack of necessity to worry constantly about spoiling."

In subsequent years, as the paperback sold 50 million copies and was translated into more than 30 languages, Spock came under fire from critics who branded him the "the father of permissiveness," responsible for a "Spock-marked" generation of hippies.

Through it all, Spock said he never changed his basic philosophy on child care – "to respect children because they're human beings and they deserve respect, and they'll grow up to be better people."



Dr. Benjamin Spock (AP)

Benjamin McLane Spock was born May 2, 1903, in New Haven, Connecticut, oldest of six children of a lawyer whose Dutch ancestors once spelled their name Spaak. He attended Yale University, where he joined the crew team and helped win a gold medal at the 1924 Olympics.

He decided on medicine after spending a summer as a counselor at a camp for handicapped children. Following graduation from Yale, he took his medical degree at Columbia University and studied at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute.

From 1933 to 1943, he worked in private practice in New York City while teaching pediatrics at Cornell University.

Spock spent two years as a psychiatrist in the US Naval Reserve Medical Corps and was discharged in 1946 as a lieutenant commander. In 1951, after four years teaching psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, Spock joined the University of Pittsburgh as professor of child development. In 1955, he joined the faculty of Case Western Reserve University. He wrote a magazine column for nearly 30 years, first for *Ladies Home Journal* and later for *Redbook*.

Spock first moved into the political limelight in 1967, warning of the possible hazards posed to children and nursing mothers by atmospheric nuclear testing. He was elected co-chairman of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy. He ran for president in 1972 as a candidate of the Peoples Party, getting more than 75,000 votes.

In the 1970s, he wrote *Raising Children in a Difficult Time*, which discussed such issues as drugs, contraception, and day care. A later revision of *Baby and Child Care*, included material on single parents, stepparents, and divorce, something he learned of firsthand following his own divorce and remarriage.

Spock's first marriage, in 1927 to the former Jane Cheney, ended in divorce after 48 years. They had two sons. His second wife was Mary Morgan.



Little time to celebrate

Wearing garlands of victory, India's prime minister-designate Atal Behari Vajpayee, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, waves to well-wishers in New Delhi yesterday. Vajpayee met with leaders of allied parties yesterday and scheduled more meetings for today, in an attempt to hammer out a governing program acceptable to everyone in his diverse coalition. He is to be sworn in as prime minister on Thursday and must then win a confidence vote in parliament within 10 days. (Reuters)

Suharto swears in new cabinet

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) – President Suharto's new cabinet took office yesterday as police and student protesters fought briefly on a university campus in the capital.

The 36 ministers, who include Suharto's eldest daughter as well as his old friends and business partners, must now tackle Indonesia's gravest economic crisis since the 1960s.

Heading the agenda are the government's troubled ties with the International Monetary Fund, which suspended aid amid fears that Indonesia is not serious about economic reform. Hubert Neiss, the IMF's chief of Asian affairs, is expected to visit Jakarta today.

At the presidential palace, a Moslem clergyman held the Koran over the heads of the ministers as the 76-year-old Suharto swore them in. The only Christian, Labor Minister Theo Sambuaga, placed his hand on a Bible.

Sixteen kilometers to the south, police clubbed students at the private Universitas Nasional during a rally against the government and its inability to stem inflation and unemployment.

There were no reports of arrests. Last week, armed forces chief Gen. Wiranto, newly appointed as defense minister, warned that authorities would crack down on protesters who break the law.

Several hundred students staged peaceful anti-government rallies yesterday at two campuses in Surabaya, 640 km. east of Jakarta.

Last week, students at more than a dozen campuses in several cities held noisy protests against the reelection of Suharto, who was awarded a seventh five-year term by a loyalist assembly.

Under foreign pressure to reform the economy, Suharto hastily assembled a cabinet packed with allies that critics say is unlikely to push hard on reform.

The IMF halted aid to the financially battered nation because of fears that Suharto is backsliding on austerity measures he promised to implement. So far, the IMF has handed over 6 percent of a $43 billion rescue package.

Most Moroccans would like to emigrate - survey

RABAT (Reuters) – Almost 90 percent of Moroccans in their 20s would like to settle abroad, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The poll, which was printed in the weekly economic newspaper *le Journal*, said that 89% of those aged from 20 to 29 years wanted to leave, and 71% among the 30 to 39 year age group.

The newspaper said that the poll disproved the theory that women were more attached to their environment than men. While migrants in the past came mainly from rural areas, more young city dwellers now wanted to emigrate, some 73% against 69% in villages.

The paper said it was very alarming to see that 70% of graduates were ready to leave, "but there are realities that only the blind would not see, a high unemployment rate, blatant social marginalization and growing disparities."

"Each day hundreds of young Moroccans undertake the risky journey to Europe via the Strait of Gibraltar. Poverty, unemployment and repression push them northwards," the paper said.

Publication of the survey coincided with news of the latest accident to a boat carrying illegal immigrants between North Africa and Spain. At least 13 would-be immigrants vanished after the boat sank off the Spanish coast.

Jockeying begins in choice of presidents for France's regions

By DEBORAH SEWARD

PARIS (AP) — France's political parties began jockeying yesterday for the leadership of the country's regions after the Socialists defeated conservative parties in local elections.

Official results released yesterday by the Interior Ministry showed the Socialists and their leftist allies won 39.6 percent of the vote in Sunday's election.

Mainstream conservative parties got 35.65%, while the National Front won 15.19% — up from their 14.1% in the 1992 regional elections.

The comfortable — though not spectacular — showing by the Left consolidated Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's power nine months after the Left came to power after winning parliamentary elections.

With the vote counted, the new regional councils will now choose their presidents Friday. The Left stands to win the leadership of 12 of France's 22 regions, way up from the two they control now.

The National Front made its overtures to the traditional right yesterday, with deputy party leader Bruno Megret proposing alliances in regions where their combined forces could win the regional presidencies.

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Thirty years after the My Lai massacre

Americans and Vietnamese pay respect to the 407 innocent villagers who lost their lives at the hands of US servicemen

By PAUL ALEXANDER

MY LAI, Vietnam – Hopes for a bright future mingled with memories of the dark past as Vietnamese and Americans stood shoulder to shoulder yesterday to mark the 30th anniversary of the My Lai massacre.

The featured speakers were two US servicemen who kept the tragedy from being even worse by landing their helicopter between marauding American troops and a small group of villagers.

"Something terrible happened here 30 years ago," Hugh Thompson, of Lafayette, Louisiana, said as the crowd of more than 1,000 surged forward to catch a glimpse of the pilot who has been hailed as a hero.

"I cannot explain why it happened. I just wish our crew that day could have helped more people than we did," Thompson said.

Many in the crowd, particularly Vietnamese soldiers, applauded after the brief remarks ended the half-hour ceremony, then lined up to light sticks of incense at a concrete monument showing My Lai's victims – some dying and others comforting the dying.

Several dozen Americans were on hand, both veterans and civilians.

"We are here to pay respects to the dead and the living," said Richard Lee Francisco, a construction manager from Seattle who lives with his Vietnamese wife in Danang, a two-hour drive away.

Just a few days ago, Thompson, gunner Lawrence Colburn and crew chief Glenn Andreotta – who was killed three weeks after My Lai – were belatedly honored with the Soldier's Medal, the highest US military award for bravery not involving conflict with the enemy.

On Sunday, Thompson and Colburn had an emotional reunion with two of the women they helped save. Later, as they toured the memorial, a woman who survived the massacre came up to shake hands and talk, just a few feet from the ditch where she had lain under a pile of bodies for hours.

But a hoped-for reunion did not occur with a young boy who was injured and covered with blood when Thompson plucked him from a pile of bodies. The boy is 36 now and serving a five-year jail term for theft. Village officials say he is a walking casualty of My Lai.

Colburn, of Woodstock, Georgia, was making his first return to My Lai for the anniversary. In his address Monday, he lamented the loss of Andreotta and offered sympathy "to every family of every veteran who has paid the same sacrifice. May we never forget again the heartbreak and brutality of war," Colburn said. "I believe in my heart and I pray to God we can achieve peace on earth."



Vietnamese line up to light sticks of incense at a monument depicting My Lai's victims. (AP)

But Hoan Ngoc Tran, vice chairman of the People's Committee in Quang Ngai province, pointed out that even as the memory of the Vietnam War and My Lai's tragedy fade, the road to world peace remains rocky.

"The ghost of war is still haunting mankind," he said. "The bloody ethnic and religious cleansing still happens in many parts of the world."

The 2.4-hectare (six-acre) memorial site is a haunting place. A peaceful, flower-strewn park surrounded by rice paddies, it features headstones marking graves and sites of mass killings, along with a museum with graphic photos of the massacre.

Before an honor guard carried red-and-green wreaths to the main status, loudspeakers blared a commentary Monday: "In just two hours, American invaders killed 407 people in this hamlet alone. The American invaders left the village with blood and fire and mass graves." The soldiers moved on to a nearby hamlet and killed another 97 there the same day.

My Lai has changed over the years. Motorbikes vie for space on the paved road that once was dirt and used only by bicycles and pedestrians. The population has swelled from 8,000 in 1968 to more than 12,000 today, even though the area was further devastated by the war in the years after the massacre.

But just a stone's throw away from the memorial, life goes on as it has for generations – in war and peace: Farmers cultivate rice paddies or use water buffalo to plow their small plots.

Mike Boehm, a Vietnam War veteran who visited the massacre site for the first time several years ago and was strongly moved by the experience, is trying to bring something positive to the region.

The Madison, Wisconsin, resident has helped set up a loan program for some local women to start their own businesses. On Monday, he used a bamboo-handled shovel to break ground for a peace park a little over a mile from the memorial.

Nguyen Duc Le, vice chairman of the Son Tinh district, described it as a place where people can come after visiting the memorial: for children to play and adults to meditate on the massacre.

"With this park of peace, we have created a green, growing, living monument to peace," Boehm said. "Let both of us, the people of the United States and the people of Vietnam, move to a new future of peace." (AP)

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Violence set to music

In Tune

By David Brinn



The sound track to the movie 'Mortal Kombat – Annihilation' is old fashioned heavy metal distorted by loops and synthesizers.

The sound track of the film *Mortal Kombat – Annihilation* sounds just like you would expect it to: violence set to music.

Whereas a few years ago a movie like this would be 100% heavy metal, which at least has its basis in blues and rock & roll, this year's model for young aggressive music fans is electronica at top volume which has its basis in untalented technocrats who have been exposed to too many strobe lights.

MORTAL KOMBAT – ANNIHILATION
Sound Track
(Helicon)

THE GIRL FROM IPANEMA
Various Artists
(Helicon)

It's basically the same music we headbangers used to listen to as kids. It's just distorted by loops and synthesizers beyond any noticeable recognition. We certainly never learned about anything closely resembling this in Miss Glassford's sixth grade music appreciation class.

There's no use singling out any tracks or artists because neither you nor I have ever heard of them and, with any luck, we can continue through life in blissful ignorance except when a car passes us on the street with bass and drums music blaring so loudly, the vehicle looks like it's going to implode.

Those naysayers who have been crowing about the death of rock & roll for the last 20 or 30 years, have a little more evidence at hand here.

THE CARNIVAL in Rio has just ended, but that's no reason to put away the maracas and the bongos. *The Girl from Ipanema: The Best of Brazilian Classics* lives up to its name, which is a tall order.

Covering 40 years of popular Brazilian beats (better known in Rio as "musica popular brasileira," or MPB), *The Girl* reflects how pervasive the Brazilian influence has been on the Israeli psyche and how it spread onward to the West.

The title cut, of course, is everyone's favorite cocktail bar shmaltz. Performed here by Stan Getz, who covered the song written by the fathers of modern Brazilian pop, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes, "The Girl from Ipanema" introduced the bossa nova sound to the US. The song undoubtedly contributed to the sexual revolution in 1960s middle America with its sultry yet unthreatening beat which induced suburbanites to swap mates and buy flamingos for their lawn.

Fans of Paul Simon's *Rhythm of the Saints* will quickly recognize its roots in Ejigbo's "Una historia de Ifa," a prime example of the native Bahia drum beat.

Those tunes that have influenced Israel are also amply represented. Jobim and Elis Regina's duet "Agua de Marco" was later covered by Gidi Gov and Miki Kami as "Keshe hageshem yavo." Jorge Ben's "Pais tropical," performed here by Fio Maravilha, was revamped by Yehudit Ravitz as "Eretz tropit yafa," and she changed another of Ben's tunes, "Que maravilha," to "Pnei malach."

Capping the disc is a song that Israel Radio listeners will remember from a couple of decades ago as chopped up filler music before the news. To hear one of Brazil's premier divas perform "Trem daz onze" in its entirety is a pageantry of sound and emotion reflective of the rich Brazilian experience.

A spiritual, cerebral Daniel Barenboim

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Daniel Barenboim's rendition of Liszt's Sonata in B minor, with all its brilliance, virtuosity, bravura and occasional lyricism, in the JSO Recital Series, almost made one forget the preceding Beethoven sonatas.

In Beethoven's Sonata op. 109,

DANIEL BARENBOIM
JSO Recital Series
Sonatas by Beethoven and Liszt
Jerusalem Theater
March 8

Barenboim appeared closer to this work's rarefied spirituality than to the stormier mood of the *Pathetique*. His approach sounded predominantly cerebral and minutely calculated. Spontaneity and forceful expression did not appear to be among his major concerns. A meditative ambience and exquisite soft tones, more than any excitement, were this performance's special fascination.

Traces of the current obsession with pianistic velocity were noticeable in the *Pathetique*. After a captivating pensive opening, speed was achieved at the expense of the melodic theme's weightiness, the fingers hovering lightly over the keys instead of sinking into them. The slow movement sounded more like an Andante than the prescribed Adagio, to say nothing of the cantabile. There was room for less haste and more clarity in the final Allegro. *Ury Eppstein*

THE MOST exciting and powerful work at the fetsival was Oded Zehavi's *Three Winter Ballads*, in which the composer uses a Hebrew translation of three songs by Anna Akhmatova and creates an intricate tapestry of so-called folk music turned into something much more eloquent. Each song is a world in its own right and together they make a powerful opus which was marvelously performed above all by Edna Pruchnik, whose alto is caressing and captivating.

TEMPUS FUGIT CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Tel Aviv Museum, March 5-8

Pruchnik was also the soloist in Benjamin Baraam's *Stimmen*, a powerful opus in which the composer creates an intense world. The combination of string quartet, percussion, clarinet and horn with the human voice was compelling. New chamber works for voice by Ron Weidberg and Ya'acov Gilboa left a lot to be desired. Marina Levit, on the other hand, gave a dramatic rendition of Tsippie Fleischer's *Lamentation*.



Daniel Barenboim

The premiere of Gil Shohat's half hour children's opera *The Happy Prince* was a delightful event. Shohat has created a romantic mini-epic which moves quickly from one emotional extreme to another. The musical language is simple but not simplistic, and one can easily sense that this is a composer who knows what he wants in every medium he writes in. The Moran Children's Choir under the baton of Naomi Faran was first rate. Director Julia Pevzner created a dramatic, easy-flowing mini-show. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

WHEN GIUSEPPE Sinopoli and the IPO reached the finale of Mahler's Third Symphony, it was as if a new fire had been lit and suddenly, after a powerful reading of the symphony, everything had to start anew, as if the world, which was constructed and deconstructed, was reborn from its own ashes and began to grow and prosper with its eyes steadfast towards the horizon. It was an optimistic ending which reaches directly into the soul and brought to a conclusion in a performance in which the IPO played one of its best concerts of the season. Some might argue that this Mahler lacked the pain, agony and ecstasy one usually associates with the composer. Could be. After all, Sinopoli is a thinking man's conductor who tries to delve into the essence of the work. His interpretations are often unconventional and much more interesting for that. This was a Mahler third which I, for one, will never forget. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

SINOPOLI CONDUCTS MAHLER
IPO
Mann Auditorium, March 4

THE WE Hear the World Festival of music brought huge crowds to the TAPAC, who danced in the aisles as ensembles from the four corners of the world electrified them from the stage. There was the dynamic Manu Dibango side by side with the enthusiasm, panache and excitement of Zap Mama, in addition to the serene stylings of the musicians from Rajastan. But as far as I am concerned, the most beguiling performance was that of the Whirling Dervishes from Turkey. It is not an easy show to watch from beginning to end, and some might even argue that it is very repetitive, which hinders the overall enjoyment. But once the listener/viewer is willing to be taken on a transcendental voyage into a terra incognita, the result is extremely rewarding. These dervishes play and dance as in a trance, their songs and dance performance simply hypnotic.

WE HEAR THE WORLD FESTIVAL
Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center
March 4-7

Festival concerts were filmed for future airing on local television. Next year's We Hear the World festival takes place June 2-5, 1999. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

Gorky's futile fracas

THEATER REVIEW

By Naomi Pasternak

To all appearances, this production is primarily a showcase for the talents of Beit Zvi's most recent crop of graduate actors. Over a dozen are embroiled in demanding roles in this stormy scene set in a Russian household of the post-Czarist period. At least three of these prospective artists emerge with the promise of a bright future.

BOURGEOIS
By Maxim Gorky
Translated by Eran Baniel
Directed & designed by Salva Meltzer
Hasifriya Theater

You can teach people to be technicians; but actors, no matter how you train them, will never achieve greatness unless they are born with it.

Amir Karieff shows all the signs of a natural-born actor. His Tatarov, the drunken church chorister, is a mature, sophisticated and subtle creation, precocious in a still raw and inexperienced actor.

It is hoped that his performance here will earn him roles of equally dramatic stature in future productions.

Anat Zamshteigman as Tatiana, a souring old maid and life-weary schoolteacher, played with sensitivity, restrained pathos and emotional depth, shows great potential as an up-and-coming performer as well.

Gil Wasserman, who plays Partchichin, the never-sober bird-seller, gives the third outstanding performance. His character study of the comic grotesque is delightfully evocative, sincere and never overworked.

In fact, it is only in these three presentations that anything of the authentic Gorky ambience or mood is captured. Gorky wraps all his plays in a dark and dreary blanket of misery and hopeless despair, enlivened – if at all – by black humor.

In this production, however, this characteristic quality is downplayed. Apparent only in the depressing set, flea-market furnishings and gloomy lighting, it is replaced by a bruising display of brawling bourgeois, shrilly antagonistic protagonists, and shallow relationships.

This is countered by the director's attempt to distract attention from the futile, ongoing fracas with a perpetual onslaught of superfluous stage business. Repetitive exits and entrances, flinging of cushions, lighting of cigarettes, and banging of doors prove a poor substitute for a real Gorky ethos.

Cast in the shadow of the star

By ANN HORNADAY

J.T. Who? That's the usual response at the mention of J.T. Walsh.

Walsh, who appeared in more than 60 films, died February 27 of a heart attack at the age of 54. Most recently he played the scheming husband in John Dahl's *Red Rock West*, the scary pedophile in *Sling Blade*, and the trucker terrorizing Kurt Russell in *Breakdown*. His career capitalized on his ability to convey innocence and malignancy simultaneously. He almost never stopped working in 33 years, yet most filmgoers have a difficult time conjuring up his face. J.T. Walsh was a supporting actor, the guy who thanklessly keeps the plot moving, keeps the spirit of the production on point; gives hazily written characters the stamp of individuality without stealing thunder from the lead players. All the while suffering the ignominious yet unavoidable, moniker of "second banana."

Walsh epitomized a classic type on which supporting careers are built: the villain. With his uncanny blend of innocence and malice, anonymity and menace, he embodied the banality of evil, just as Christopher Walken personifies its more psychotic aspects, and James Woods its haunted, wounded side.

Walsh's passing invites reflection: Whither the career of a supporting actor? He hasn't disappeared, but he seems in increasing danger of extinction, reduced to a wispy walk-on or a stereotype, by the stars and special effects that are driving movies. Consider the nominees for this year's Academy Award for best supporting actor: two comebacks of waning careers, two stars gracing worthy productions with their presence, and a fresh young actor. What's missing from the list is the career utility man.

The Golden Age of the supporting actor was the late 1930s and 1940s, when the studio system was in full force. MGM's motto was a supporting actor, the guy who thanklessly keeps the plot moving, keeps the spirit of the production on point; gives hazily written characters the stamp of individuality without stealing thunder from the lead players. All the while suffering the ignominious yet unavoidable, moniker of "second banana."

The Golden Age extended into the 1950s, when trained actors could work in solid supporting roles. Some went on to stardom (James Stewart, Gary Cooper and Clark Gable; later, Harrison Ford carried on that tradition). Others, who lacked "star quality" but had a facility for playing a multitude of characters or just one type, made up the studios' stable of reliable supporting players. Their repeated use helped create the cinematic grammar of the day. Not that the grammar was always edifying. Akim Tamiroff equaled "swarthy foreigner." Peter Lorre's sneering visage became a trope for every conniving German during the war years. Walter Brennan equaled "old codger."

But there were also the great character actors who transcended type. Think of *Casablanca* without Lorre or Claude Rains or Sydney Greenstreet. Imagine what the great films of the 1950s would have been without Karl Malden, Arthur Kennedy, Anthony Quinn and Jack Palance.

There are heirs to the greats of the Golden Age on the horizon. Greg Kinnear, nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of a gay artist in *As Good As it Gets*, could be the next Gig Young, but is there enough honor in that for a young man with a "hot" future? Kevin Spacey, who won the 1995 Oscar for *The Usual Suspects*, has the silkiness of a modern-day Claude Rains. Samuel L. Jackson is able to handle both lead and support.

Time will tell whether Hollywood can consistently create roles worthy of their talents. In the meantime, next time you're at the movies, take a little time to look at the guy keeping the whole cavalcade going. And try to remember his name, so that at least one less career will be relegated to "Who?"

(The Baltimore Sun)

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Dennis Potter at the Khan

Director Ben Levine believes that violence on the stage is cathartic for this violent age. His well-received production of *Killer Joe* at the Khan Theater seems to be proof.

Now Levine takes on the high priest of strange, the late Dennis Potter. His production of Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* opens at the Khan on Saturday. The play deals with the games children play, except that these children are played by adults. Children are often heedless of the consequences of their actions, but so are adults, which is why Potter insisted on adult casting to drive the moral home. Originally broadcast in 1979 on the BBC as a teleplay, *Blue Remembered Hills* is about a group of children playing war games during the height of the Blitz in World War II. The Khan production is set in no particular time to emphasize the idea that the games people play haven't changed. Potter, who died in 1994, is probably best remembered for his TV series *The Singing Detective*.

France's Comédie Française to visit

Established in 1680 by and for the delectation of Louis XIV, France's Comédie Française is the temple of classic French theater. Four of the 32-member company are coming from March 21 to 23 to present scenes from some of Molière's greatest comedies, including *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Tartuffe*. They will also present poems and scenes by actor/director Louis Jouvet. Brush up your French, because the presentation sponsored by the French Institute, is in French with no translation.

One-act plays at Tzavta Tel Aviv

Last year's Short Play Festival was such a success that its organizers decided to do it again. This year they chose 10 from the more than 100 submissions, some by beginners, others by established playwrights. In fact, organizers hope the genre will encourage more of those who aren't playwrights, like poets or novelists, to try their hand.

The plays include *Him* ("Hu") by novelist Sami Michael, about a student, blind cleaning lady and conscience; *General Schwarzkopf Hunts Pink Tigers in the Desert* by the late Yosef Mundi, and written during the Gulf War; *Hearing the Sunrise* ("Lishmoa et Hazriha") about three people after a rare flower by poet Natan Zach, and Ofer Knispel's *Can't Take It Anymore* ("Lo Yacholim Yoter") about a woman who takes the chief rabbi hostage. The festival play in both halls at Tzavta from April 2 to 4.

Sobol's 'Village' big hit in Berlin

The Gesher Theater production of Yehoshua Sobol's nostalgic look at life here up to 1948, *Kfar* (Village), has won raves from Berlin audiences and critics. Next Monday it goes to Washington's Kennedy Center to join other Israeli companies for *Art of the State: Israel at 50*.

Jazz in Ashdod

Bustling Ashdod signs on with *Jazz in Winter*, the fourth of its kind, on March 20 and 21 at the municipal auditorium. The combos range from some ambitious and talented kids, the Fuse Quintet, to eminent jazz veterans like Albert Piamenta with his Camoun Quintet and again as part of the Hana'a Kidmit big band which also features Avraham Felder on trumpet. Felder comes back with his combo, called Isradixie, playing (what else?) Dixie. There's also guitarist Baldi Olier in a program of jazz flamenco with dancer Sonya Gracia, and another quintet called Takumu which plays a glorious mix of everything. There'll be four concerts each evening from 8:30.

ITV 3 appeals to late-night viewers

Night owls with cable can now watch TV until 1 a.m on ITV 3 (33) from Thursday through Sunday. The new service, primarily in Arabic, is aimed mostly at the inhabitants of Arab countries. Programs will range from soap operas to current affairs.

Ecstatic Israel Ballet

Ecstasy is what happens to young lovers and to fledglings as, suddenly, they soar, and to the dancers of the Israel Ballet in *Ecstasy*, Berta Yampolsky's new ballet. Her company performs her new work in its world premiere at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on March 29.

Yampolsky, IB's founding artistic director, describes the 30-minute ballet as "variations on movement and rhythm, a thoroughly contemporary work which keeps nothing back. It's pure dance, no gimmicks."

Adapting the language of modern dance to classical ballet allows the development of "different and interesting lines." Percussion provides *Ecstasy*'s music. The evening also contains another Yampolsky piece, *Two by Two and Everyone* and *Symphony in C* by George Balanchine.

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Bad manners

In a recent interview, British Ambassador David Manning told this newspaper, "We don't want to be seen as a partner, somebody with whom Israel can discuss serious issues in a serious way." This is certainly a laudable goal, but one that may be set back, rather than advanced, by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit to Israel today.

Cook originally planned, during his one-day trip to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, to visit Jerusalem's Har Homa accompanied by Faisal Husseini. So far, Israel has convinced Cook not to be accompanied to the site by Husseini, who holds the Jerusalem portfolio for the Palestinian Authority. Cook's visit to Har Homa is now being billed as a "private visit."

Given that Cook is probably not looking to buy an apartment on Har Homa, it is unclear what is "private" about the visit. If Cook had just wanted to see the Jerusalem neighborhood-to-be for himself, Israeli officials would no doubt have been willing to give him a tour. But by announcing his intention to visit escorted by a Palestinian leader, Cook was making an obvious bid to strengthen the Palestinian cause in Jerusalem.

The British, as pioneers in the fields of contracts, should be especially sensitive to what agreements say and do not say. The Oslo Accords not only do not prohibit Israel from building anywhere in Jerusalem, they explicitly exclude Jerusalem from Palestinian jurisdiction in the interim phase. At the same time, the British are decidedly lackadaisical about the slew of provisions within Oslo that the Palestinians have yet to implement.

The best one can say about Cook's original idea for his visit is that it displays extremely bad manners. It would be unthinkable, for example, for an Israeli foreign minister to visit Belfast accompanied by Gerry Adams or another IRA representative. Even this example does not do the situation justice, because the IRA is not making a bid for half of London, while the Palestinians do want to establish their capital in half of Israel's capital, Jerusalem.

Moreover, it would be considered bad form for an Israeli official to issue a plan, in a demanding tone, to resolve the conflict in Northern Ireland. The process of outside powers suggesting solutions to conflicts is well-established, but it is generally based on both sides accepting the mediation of the third party.

The US represents a different case. In addition to having automatic standing as a mediator by virtue of its status as the world's only remaining superpower, the US has carefully cultivated its role through strong support for Israel while maintaining close relations with the Arab world.

This is not to say that Europe must be demonstrably "pro-Israel" to gain standing as a mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel would have no right to object if Cook acted as a friendly leader in both Jerusalem and Arab capitals, while delivering "tough" messages to both sides. It is possible to be "pro-Arab" without being "anti-Israel."

But by provocatively taking the Arab side on Jerusalem, even before final-status talks begin, Britain seems to be trying to repair its relations with the Arab world at Israel's expense.

It is perhaps understandable that Britain would be looking for ways to improve its relations with the Arab world following the latest crisis with Iraq. Britain is certainly to be commended for standing with the US in its effort to enforce UN resolutions in Iraq.

But an effort to contain Saddam – or better yet, help the Iraqi people remove him – should hardly be considered an anti-Arab policy. Saddam is at least as much a threat to his Arab neighbors as to Israel.

During the Iraq crisis, the US and Britain rightly resisted the efforts of some Arab states to twist the conflict into an Arab-Israeli one. With the Iraqi crisis over for now, Britain seems to be sharpening its policy towards Israel. On March 5, Cook pointedly chose a speech to the Anglo-Arab Association as the opportunity to unveil Europe's own six-point plan to restart the peace process.

Though the plan, and Britain's position on Jerusalem, are similar to American positions, the tone is calibrated to focus pressure mainly on Israel. If this is an effort to "compensate" for its position on Iraq, then Britain is playing into a dangerous and counterproductive effort to link the two conflicts.

If anything is damaging US and European influence in the Arab world, it is the sense that Saddam emerged unscathed from his showdown with the Western alliance. A policy of unbalanced toughness toward Israel will neither repair that damage nor advance the peace process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BRITISH IMPARTIALITY

Sir, – All throughout the era of the British mandate in Palestine, England fostered her own interests only, thus becoming a guardian of the Arabs in whose territories the English oil investments lay.

The "impartiality" of the British was repeatedly manifest in our War of Independence, in which she helped and armed the hordes of Sir John Glubb Pasha. The British military stood by and did not prevent the cold-blooded massacre of the Hebrew University personnel, students, doctors and scientists, on the Scopus convoy in April '48. The English authorities systematically disarmed Hagana members defending Jewish families and settlements, so as to make the Jews an easy prey for the Arab murderers.

I wonder, if it is not appropriate for the British to use the good services of the most ancient people, namely the Jewish nation, to ask them to send our foreign secretary to visit the "occupied territory" in Northern Ireland. He might try to arbitrate between the interests of the Irish republic and those of the British crown. Such an action might prevent further bloodshed of innocent people so as to establish, at long last, peace in the north-western tip of Europe.

BENJAMIN S. FRAENKEL
Professor of Physics,
The Hebrew University.

Jerusalem.

EU ROLE

Sir, – British Ambassador David Manning's statements "In search of a higher profile," (Feb. 23) about a greater EU role in the peace process, demonstrate why such a development should not take place.

"We are not pro-Palestinian, neither are we pro-Israeli; we are pro-peace," said Manning. The EU's actions, however, undermine rather than strengthen the peace process. The EU and Britain's Foreign Minister Robin Cook place sole blame on Israel for the current impasse. The EU does not publicly criticize Palestinian non-compliance with the Oslo Accords and its long-term Middle East policy rests on promoting economic/political links to Arab/Moslem states, the primary purchasers of European products, including weapons.

The EU's economic aid to Palestinians, though positive, does not constitute the purchase price of a greater political role in the peace process. Such a role can come only when Europe wins the trust of Israel, but a pro-Arab/pro-Iranian stance prevents such trust developing.

ROBERT KIRK

Eilat.

PERFIDIOUS ALBION

Sir, – Although the Irish Republican Army (IRA) never renounced any intention to destroy Britain, the British government nevertheless recently suspended the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, from the Northern Ireland "peace talks" because the IRA had broken an unwritten, non-signed cease-fire.

On the other hand, we are told that Britain's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and Prime Minister Tony Blair are coming to Israel to put pressure on us regarding "our peace talks." They insist (although their Mandate here ended 50 years ago) that we continue to negotiate with a "partner" who uses his "military wings" (Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad) to attack us, kill our people and sow terror. A partner who has also not kept one single undertaking set down in written, signed agreements.

In other words Britain is saying to us "Don't do as I do, just do as I say!" Talk about perfidious Albion.

EMANUEL FISCHER

Jerusalem.

OUTSTANDING

Sir, – I recently found myself in Rotterdam for the first time. What a pleasure and a delight to see spotless streets, a city worker sweeping and picking up papers from sidewalks, the freshly painted buildings and shops, the overall cleanliness of the city; the dignified and respectful manner in which the people presented themselves and conducted themselves.

It was like walking into... civilization. In Israel! Wow!

Thanks to Sam Orbaum ("Not Page One," March 2), I know why. The people have elected an outstanding mayor and his decency and leadership (along with their good taste and discernment) is reflected in the grace and charm of this city.

RENEE HADAR

Rishon Lezion.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 17, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported from Berlin that the Polish Legation there had lodged a protest concerning over 100 cases of Polish Jews who were arrested, confined in a secret place and tortured.

50 years ago: On March 17, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that in its monthly letter to the Security Council, the UN Palestine Commission complained that "present indications point to the inescapable conclusions that when the Mandate is terminated Palestine is likely to suffer severely from administrative chaos and widespread strife and bloodshed caused by the policy of the Mandatory Government not to cooperate in the implementation of the UN Partition decision." The Commission had also described as "unsatisfactory" the British stand on the question of establishment of armed militias.

Alexander Zvielli



Beyond the pain

EVELYN GORDON

It is virtually impossible to open a newspaper or turn on the radio these days without hearing about the recession. Businessmen, labor leaders, journalists and politicians all seem to agree that the country's economic state is terrible, and getting worse. Disaster, we are told, is just around the corner, unless the government takes urgent action.

Against this background, the data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics last week is surprising. The bureau reported that Israel's balance of payments deficit – which reached record proportions under the Rabin-Peres government, and was universally acknowledged by economists as the country's most threatening economic problem – was slashed by 32 percent in 1997, to $3.6 billion, from $5.3b. in 1996. Even more surprising for an economy in the doldrums, this decrease was achieved not by a slump in imports, but by a $1.5b. increase in exports.

Most surprising of all, foreign investment in Israel increased by a whopping 42 percent in 1997, to $3.4b., up from $2.4b. in 1996. What could foreigners find so attractive in a country that is not only wallowing in recession, but, as we are daily told, is also under the constant threat of political violence due to a frozen peace process?

The answer is that there are two kinds of recession. One is the collapse brought on by years of reckless overspending and bad policies. The other is the result of radical surgery to correct such policies. The latter is not necessarily any less painful than the former. The only difference is that in the second case, there is light at the end of the tunnel. And it is this light, symbolized by the decline in the balance of payments deficit, that foreign investors had in view in 1997.

The Rabin-Peres years are commonly looked back on fondly by businessmen, journalists and ordinary workers as years of stunning economic growth, when everything was good. Economists, however, were aware that the good life was a mirage – a temporary boom brought on by massive government overspending, heavy borrowing and high inflation, for which the bill was liable to come due all too soon. It was the equivalent of the man who runs up thousands of shekels worth of bills on his credit card – he can live high off the hog for a while, but when the bills come due, he may well be facing bankruptcy.

Only by painful efforts to lower inflation, reduce the budget and balance of payments deficits can the economy be returned to a path of sustainable growth

The Netanyahu government, despite all its fits and starts and half-hearted measures, has made a steady and consistent effort over the past two years to reverse this situation.

With the able assistance of the Bank of Israel, inflation was brought down to its lowest level in decades last year (6.9 percent), the budget deficit has been slowly but steadily reduced, the balance of payments deficit has plunged.

In addition, progress is slowly being made on privatization and other structural reform. It has not been as quick or dramatic as Netanyahu once promised, but it is visible.

For instance, a controlling stake in Israel's largest bank, Hapoalim, has been sold off (in contrast to the Rabin government, which sold off only non-controlling stakes in Hapoalim and the second-largest bank, Leumi), and international phone calls have been opened to competition (a plan prepared by the Rabin government, but never implemented).

THE result of all this, inevitably, is pain. Radical surgery usually is painful. But ultimately, it is aimed at restoring the patient to health. Only by these painful efforts to lower inflation, reduce the budget and balance of payments deficits, and introduce structural reforms can the economy be returned to a path of sustainable, as opposed to temporary, growth.

A day after publication of the Central Bureau of Statistics data last week, Stanley Fischer, vice-president of the International Monetary Fund, sent an unusual letter to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. In this letter, written as the IMF was completing its annual report on the Israeli economy for 1997, Fischer wrote that he usually sends such missives to protest bad government policies. It was therefore, he said, a pleasure for him to send a letter which contained only praise: for Israel's measures to reduce inflation, its efforts at structural reform and privatization, and its budgetary restraint.

Fischer and the IMF are no more ignorant of Israel's slowing growth and rising unemployment than the foreign investors who gave the economy their vote of confidence in 1997. Both, however, see these as temporary phenomena brought on by efforts to correct the previous years' errors. And both expect the temporary pain to give way to much stronger, more sustained growth in the future.

It is both unreasonable and unfair to ask the man who has just lost his job to appreciate the need for these corrective measures. But from business leaders, politicians and the media, it is possible to demand a greater degree of responsibility. It is time for all of these groups to stop trying to sabotage the government's initiatives. The Netanyahu government has certainly made its share of blunders, but overall, it has been moving in the right direction on the economic front. It deserves the public's support in these efforts.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Sharon's novel idea

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

At the beginning of January, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai came out with a new initiative designed to extract Israel from the Lebanese quagmire. Israel, he said, would be willing to implement Security Council Resolution 425, of March 19, 1978, which inter alia calls upon Israel to withdraw all its forces from Lebanese territory. In return, Lebanese forces are to enter the territories evacuated by Israel in southern Lebanon and ensure that the Hizbullah and other organizations stop their attacks against Israel from there.

Mordechai's idea is not completely new. Several weeks after his election, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu offered an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon within the framework of a "Lebanon first" agreement, although Resolution 425 in this instance was not mentioned.

Then, as now, the Lebanese response was a categorical "no" – not because Lebanon would not be delighted to be rid of the Israeli presence in the south, but because its patron in Damascus insists on vetoing any sort of settlement between Israel and Lebanon before Israel undertakes to return the Golan Heights to Syria. When Yitzhak Rabin offered to reach a separate agreement with Lebanon soon after the signing of the Declaration of Principles with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in September 1993, he received a similar Lebanese response. Having got the message loud and clear, he concentrated on trying to reach an agreement with Syria first.

In light of the known Syrian position – reiterated by Damascus several days ago – Mordechai's initiative seems at first sight a little strange, unless one views it as part of an effort by the current Israeli government to prove to the world that Israel is full of ideas and goodwill regarding progress in the peace process, and that it is the Arabs who are the rejectionists.

Sharon's proposal looks like a challenge the Lebanese are going to find very difficult not to accept

The only problem with this public relations maneuver is that all the proposals so far officially presented by Israel – on both the Palestinian and Lebanese fronts – are proposals that no one, either in Jerusalem or in the foreign governments approached by it, really expects the other side to accept.

IT is against this background that the proposal made over the weekend by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, is refreshing – though it too might prove to be little more than a trick. What Sharon is proposing is that Israel start implementing Security Council Resolution 425 unilaterally.

Israel, says Sharon, should start withdrawing from various sectors in southern Lebanon, informing the Lebanese government in advance which area it plans to evacuate next, and making it quite clear to the Lebanese leaders that it expects them to bring the Lebanese army into the evacuated area and contain the activities of the Hizbullah and other organizations that are acting independently there today. Additional Israeli withdrawals will be conditioned on whether the Lebanese government fulfills what Israel expects of it.

This is certainly a novel and daring idea, proving for the umpteenth time, to anyone who still needs proof of the fact, that whatever one might say of Sharon, he is one of our more original and imaginative politicians. The only problem is that one never quite knows what his real intentions are.

To understand just how novel and original Sharon's proposal is, one might contrast it with Rabin's response to Lebanese President Elias Harawi who, at the end of 1994, following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, proposed that Israel and Lebanon start negotiations on security arrangements along the border between the two countries.

Rabin, who was skeptical about the seriousness of Harawi's offer, answered that Israel would be willing to discuss the normalization of relations with Lebanon, on condition that the latter would first agree to deploy its army in southern Lebanon, undertake to absorb the soldiers of the Southern Lebanese Army into the Lebanese army, disarm the Hizbullah and ensure absolute quiet along Israel's northern border for a period of at least six months.

While Rabin's conditions sounded like a challenge he knew Harawi could not possibly take on, Sharon's proposal looks like a challenge the Lebanese are going to find very difficult not to accept. It now remains to be seen whether Netanyahu and Mordechai have the guts to adopt Sharon's initiative.

The writer is a political scientist.

Three cheers

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

While the Clinton administration is busy trying to impose censorship on the Internet, while religious groups are destroying constitutionally protected books containing photographs of naked children and while most Americans seem to be unconcerned about their loss of liberty, the First Amendment is alive and well in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

The Aryan Nations, a despicable group of Nazi thugs, decided to celebrate the birthday of their hero, Adolf Hitler, with a parade. Instead of trying to ban the Nazi parade as the town of Skokie, Ill., did in 1978, the town of Coeur D'Alene came up with a creative solution entirely consistent with the letter and spirit of the First Amendment. Many of their citizens decided to leave town and attend a human rights rally across the state line in Washington.

They expect to raise as much as $1 million for human rights and for responding to the hate spewed out by Idaho's few Nazis. When the Nazi creeps march down the streets of Coeur D'Alene, no one will be there.

They will be greeted by signs in the windows and shops saying "Closed to Hate."

The marketplace of ideas is left open and Nazism is rejected on its demerits, rather than by some Big Brother or Big Sister telling Americans that they are not mature enough or intelligent enough to evaluate the Nazis and toss their ideas into the garbage pail where they belong. The answer to bad speech should never be censorship. It should be good speech.

Contrast what Coeur D'Alene is wisely doing with what Skokie foolishly did 20 years ago. Skokie managed to turn a few Nazis into a cause celebre. The American Civil Liberties Union had to defend them – rightly, in my view.

The Nazis were given free television time. The story was made into a television movie starring Danny Kaye. In the end, the Nazis who wanted to march through Skokie won a propaganda victory because they were censored.

The Nazis who want to march through Coeur D'Alene will suffer a propaganda defeat because

We can all learn an important lesson from the wise people of Coeur D'Alene

the people of Coeur D'Alene used the First Amendment against them.

We can all learn an important lesson from the wise people of Coeur D'Alene. Whenever a hater like Farrakhan, Falwell, Buchanan, Fuhrman or the Aryan Nations wants to speak, let them. But do not let their hateful comments go unanswered.

Use the occasion of their speech as an opportunity to teach equality, justice and the American way. When Americans are presented with both sides of an issue, most have historically responded by rejecting racism, bigotry and hate; not always, but no country has been immune from these cancers.

Colleges and universities, in particular, should learn from Coeur D'Alene's actions. Today's campuses have become hotbeds of censorship, with speech codes, disciplinary proceedings, and vague "hostile environment" sexual harassment rulings administered by censorial students, deans and presidents.

Instead of using hateful speech as an opportunity to educate, these lazy cowards immediately jump to censor anything that offends anyone. No one learns anything from shutting down the marketplace of ideas. But we all learn from opening it up to the widest array of viewpoints.

Even Holocaust denial speech – among the most offensive imaginable – should not be censored. It should, however, stimulate education about the terrible truth of the Holocaust. The same is true of racist, sexist, homophobic and other bigoted speech.

Bad speech provides a wonderful springboard for good speech, especially in this age of lethargy.

I am sending a contribution to the sponsors of the human rights rally across the border from Coeur D'Alene. I will send contributions to any group that fights bigotry with free speech. I urge everyone who hates Nazism and loves freedom of speech to do likewise. The result will be that every time Nazis march, they will be raising money for anti-Nazi causes.

Three cheers for the good people of Coeur D'Alene. They have taught the world how to deal with the growing phenomenon of neo-Nazi speech. Do not ignore it. Do not censor it. Answer it. Defeat it in the marketplace of ideas.

(United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

Formidable tool to fight global crime

As the Mossad stumbles from one blunder to the next, Interpol has shaken off its embarrassing, dinosaur image to stand at the cutting edge of sophisticated crime detection. Jack Nelson reports from Lyon, France



When police in Luxembourg arrested a Nigerian national suspected of trafficking in heroin from Thailand last year, they believed they had a workaday case of small-time smuggling. Purely as a matter of routine, they passed the information along to Interpol headquarters here.

Interpol analysts put the report together with data from other sources, and an unexpected picture snapped into focus: a huge drug ring operating in more than 30 countries across Africa, Central America, Asia, Europe and North America.

Acting on Interpol's evidence, police arrested additional suspects, including a Nigerian drug lord now awaiting trial in Denmark.

Moreover, Interpol's work provided new material for an investigation of what a US law enforcement agent describes as the drug world's hottest and most successful new method of distributing its products: the international postal system.

"They are smuggling through the mail such amounts as 500 grams at a time, small compared to the huge amounts the cartels are used to shipping at one time," the US agent said. "But altogether, tons and tons are being mailed."

Key to Interpol's success in the Luxembourg case were its vast computer data base and its ability to link seemingly unrelated suspects from airline flight records, telephone numbers, criminal records and code names.

Such sophisticated crime detection may be just what most Americans would expect from an international law enforcement agency that gave rise to "The Man From Interpol," the James Bond-style television series that began in the 1960s.

For most of Interpol's history, however, the reality has been far different.

UNTIL relatively recently, Interpol — or, formally, the International Criminal Police Organization — was best known among law enforcement experts for its outdated technology, labyrinthine bureaucracy and unreliable protection of sensitive intelligence information.

"Frankly, it was embarrassing and not quite relevant to the needs of law enforcement around the world," says Peter J. Nevitt, a former British police official who directs Interpol's information and technology department.

Interpol was so far behind the curve technologically that it was still using Morse code as recently as a few years ago to communicate with some member countries in the developing world.

Only after a decade of sometimes painful reform was Interpol turned into a formidable instrument for combating global crime.

Some experts say its newfound capabilities may be on the line when Interpol's member nations choose a new chief, perhaps as early as next year. The candidates as of now are Michel Richardot, head of the French police academy, and Ronald K. Noble, US Treasury undersecretary for enforcement during the first Clinton administration.

Under the leadership of a veteran police official from Scotland Yard, Interpol has brought its technological capabilities up to date, streamlined its operations and tightened its security.

Now, more than 150 of Interpol's 177 member nations are linked by computer in the world's most extensive law enforcement communications network.

By the end of 1998, Nevitt said, all Interpol members will be connected to "the world's first qualified, fully equipped international communications network, capable of sending messages throughout the world in 120 seconds."

As a result of these and other changes, Interpol now enjoys considerable trust and cooperation from law enforcement agencies in the major countries that once paid lip service to the idea of the organization, but in reality kept it at arm's length.

Indeed, with international crime increasing sharply as the economy goes global, many experts regard Interpol as vital in bringing not only drug smugglers but also such transnational criminals as fraud artists, money launderers, pedophiles and computer crooks to justice.

Political fugitives also find their way onto Interpol's radar scope. In November, as a result of an Interpol request from Bangladesh, agents from the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested A.K.M. Mohuiddin Ahamed in Los Angeles in connection with the 1975 killing of the country's president, Sheik Mujibur Rahman, and various other officials during a military coup.

Interpol traced Ahamed to Los Angeles, where he was arrested at an INS office while seeking an extension of his US visa. After his arrest, Ahamed, a former Bangladeshi ambassador to Iraq who arrived in the US in July 1996, acknowledged being involved in the killings.

After an appeal for political asylum was denied, Ahamed posted a $15,000 bond in Los Angeles and was set free. The INS is now seeking to deport him.

Interpol has also played a key role in locating missing persons, especially children. It was Interpol agents who located 8-year-old Crystal Leann Anzaldi, who had disappeared from her San Diego home when she was 14 months old.

The girl was located in Puerto Rico in October, living with a woman who claimed to be her mother, after Interpol agents investigating a case of suspected child abuse matched her with a picture they found on an Internet site operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

THE Vienna, Austria-based International Criminal Police Commission, Interpol's predecessor, was essentially a European organization, one of whose bureaus had the ominous task of handling "the Gypsy nuisance."

When Germany overran Austria in 1938, it moved the agency to Berlin and turned it into an arm of the Gestapo, with its files available for tracking down Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals.

After the war police officials meeting in Brussels, Belgium, revived the ICPC, renamed it the International Criminal Police Organization and moved its headquarters to Paris.

They chose "Interpol" as its telegraphic address, and the word became synonymous with the organization.

For many years, however, although it occasionally provided data that helped law enforcement agencies around the world, Interpol languished under the tight control of the French, who operated it as though it were part of the French government bureaucracy.

Fenton Bresler, a British attorney and longtime student of Interpol, wrote in a 1992 book of "the dead hand of the French bureaucracy," the "widespread dissatisfaction with the increased slowness of the organization" and "its shortage of modern equipment."

Some member nations, including the US, believed that French domination undercut Interpol's status as a truly international body. The French had even managed to have inserted into Interpol's constitution a line stipulating that the secretary-general "should preferably be a national of the country in which the seat of the organization is situated."

Not until 1985, when the US led a rebellion against French domination, did Interpol elect Raymond Kendall of Scotland Yard to be its first non-French secretary-general since the war. A French newspaper referred to Kendall's election as an "Anglo-American takeover."

Kendall moved Interpol's headquarters to an ultramodern, six-story glass structure along the Rhone River in Lyons and initiated a $25 million high-tech development program.

Experts see a reformed Interpol as vital in bringing transnational criminals – drug smugglers, fraud artists, money launderers, pedophiles and computer crooks – to justice

With aid from the US and several other governments, Interpol contributed about $5.5 million worth of computers, modems and other gear to more than 100 countries.

Today the building's high-wire fence, guards, locks and metal detectors reflect more than tighter security. They symbolize the changed attitudes within the organization.

Even the headquarters' winding hallways contribute to Interpol's new focus. The walls are lined with photographs, each bearing a color tab: red for murderers, terrorists and persons wanted for other major crimes; blue for persons about whom Interpol or a member nation seeks a location and additional information; green for persons suspected of involvement in international criminal activity; yellow for missing persons, and black for an unidentified corpse.

Interpol's "red notices," which signify that a member nation seeks the suspect's apprehension and extradition, have contributed to the arrest of several of the world's most wanted. Among them: Carlos the Jackal, the Venezuelan terrorist nabbed in Sudan in 1994, and Ira Einhorn, known as the "hippie killer," convicted of murdering his girlfriend in Philadelphia in 1977.

Einhorn was arrested last June in a farmhouse in southern France after information his Swedish wife provided for a driver's license was spotted by an agent on an Interpol database. But a French court set him free last month rather than extradite him to the US, where, according to his French lawyer, the American justice system would not have treated him fairly.

A red notice posted in July at the request of British authorities got even quicker results. The subject was a bartender wanted in connection with the murder of his pub's owner.

Interpol's Washington office, tracking financial records, traced the man to Colorado and alerted the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to a man with a glass eye and an Australian accent.

Hours later, a highway patrolman recognized the suspect after stopping him for speeding 90 mph on a motorcycle in rural northeastern Colorado.

"It's the kind of case that shows the value of instantaneous communications and cooperation that Interpol brings to international law enforcement," said John Imoff, a 22-year FBI veteran who heads Interpol's Washington office.

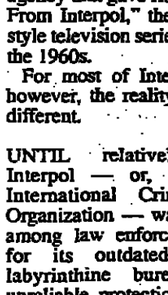
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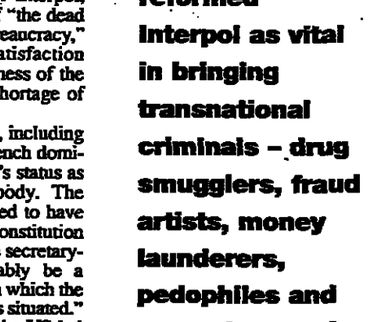
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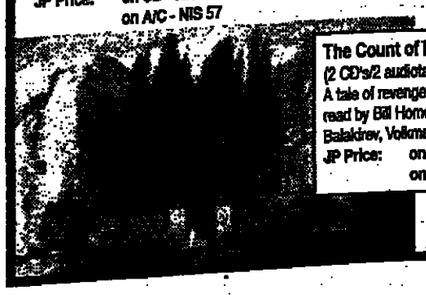


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Farewell, Dr. Spock

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

I have to admit that I felt quite sad when I learned yesterday that Dr. Benjamin Spock had died.

Not that I knew the world-famous guru of baby and child care personally, but you start to care about the man you rely on for advice when your child is running a high fever and coughing uncontrollably in the middle of the night, who told you which first solid food your kid can digest, and whom you expected to assist you through your child's toilet-training.

That said, I must confess that I'd been having second thoughts about Dr. Spock in recent weeks. He'd been getting some rather troubling press, as a result of persistent financial and health problems. Apparently, Dr. Spock's wife (some 40 years his junior) had been hitting up friends lately for money to pay for her husband's regular massages, dietitian appointments, and psychoanalysis three times a week, without which, she said, he could not function.

I was pretty concerned. This was, after all, the guy who was supposed to be giving me directions on how to raise a well-adjusted kid. I began to question the source of the advice I was using on child-rearing.

Yes, I knew Dr. Spock was only human and flawed like the rest of us. But I couldn't help it. I expected more from a man I've been depending on to help shape my child's character. Were my expectations too high?

In some professions, it is obvious why you hold people to certain standards. After all, you don't expect your hairstylist to sport a purple crewcut, your aerobics instructor to develop a pot belly, or your manicurist to bite her nails.

And when you look to someone for moral and religious direction, inevitably your standards rise even higher. That is why we are so hard, for instance, on rabbis, ministers, or other spiritual leaders who are caught lying, cheating, or stealing.

Freud (who gave lots of people advice on how to conduct their lives but wasn't exactly a paragon of stability himself) would probably say that the need for such role models begins with our parents, who we wish to be infallible and superhuman, and inevitably end up disappointing us, though hopefully only in minor ways.

In these days of presidential and prime ministerial scandals, and revelations about our all-too-flawed leaders, there's been a lot of talk of separating the personal and professional.

Now that Spock has passed on, it seems absurd to me that some of the vagaries of his private life should stop me from taking much of the sensible advice I always find in his book, *Baby and Child Care* which has sold more than 50 million copies and was translated into 39 languages.

Recently, the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Baby and Child Care* was celebrated, and many people looked back and appreciated what Dr. Spock brought to the business of child-raising. True, he took a lot of heat for being a traditionalist – after all, any advice given in the 1950s would look fairly politically incorrect in the '90s. But the truth is that he was never afraid to correct himself or revise his books.

His advice was always straightforward, to the point, and gave you the information you needed. Though he pioneered a more "child-centric" approach to family life, he never forgot that parents were people, too, and that when caring for an infant, toddler or older child a balance must be struck between the needs of the offspring and the needs of the parent.

What I liked best about Dr. Spock is that he always urged parents to "trust your instincts." There were no definitive right or wrong answers. He also always stressed that there was no better formula for raising happy secure kids than to show them as much love and affection as possible.

So, he was a little bit troubled and flaky in his old age. So what? That won't lessen the contribution he made to my life and the lives of other nervous first-time parents.

Rest in peace, Dr. Spock. You will always have a place on my bookshelf. You may be gone, but you will not be forgotten.

So Benjamin Spock was a little bit troubled and flaky in his old age. So what? That won't lessen the contribution he made to my life and the lives of other nervous first-time parents.

Romance novels R you

For a few dollars and a lot of delicious details, you can be the hero or heroine of your own paperback romantic novel. Jerry Zezima reports

The intense brown eyes of my ruggedly handsome face blaze brightly as I write these brilliant words, my iron muscles rippling with every dashing stroke, my keen mind racing with the consuming thought that my one true love is burning with a fiery passion, not only to kiss my full, masculine lips but to tell me, in urgent, breathless tones, to get off my duff and take out the garbage.

And why not? I am, after all, the hero of *Emerald Seduction*, a new romance novel by the queen of pulp fiction, Desiree Lamour. I achieved literary immortality last week when my own customized copy of *Emerald Seduction*, a steamy tale of love and intrigue published by Personal Passions of Arlington, Virginia, arrived in the mail.

I had been waiting in sweaty anticipation ever since I read about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to supplant Fabio as the world's greatest heartthrob. All I had to do was call the special toll-free number (888) 668-3505 or visit the Personal Passions Web site, www.PersonalPassions.com, and order a questionnaire, which I was supposed to fill out with 50 exciting and mostly true details about myself that would be used in *Emerald Seduction* (59 pages, $69.95), a sizzling paperback in which I, of course, am the main character.

Upon receiving a sexy black envelope, which was sealed with a kiss from Desiree Lamour (a.k.a. Lynn Knowles, the playful genius behind this publishing phenomenon), I saw that there were two forms, one for the hero and one for the heroine. The hero form was easy: I filled in my name and provided such pertinent information as eye color (intense brown), hair type (curly), body type (roughly handsome) and occupation (newspaper columnist).

My wife, who is, of course, my one true love, even when she tells me to take out the garbage, helped me with the heroine, whose name, I decided, would be Ivana Love. Her personal details included eye color (enticing green), hair color (raven black), body type (voluptuous), personality traits (fiery, passionate, sensitive) and occupation (forensic pathologist). Other details important to the story were favorite restaurant (Chez Stadium), special song ("Hound Dog") and villain (Sy Attica).

The next day I went to work, faxed all this information to Personal Passions and, boiling with desire, waited. Two weeks later, my very own copy of *Emerald Seduction* (subtitled *The Tale of a Great Love*) arrived in the mail. It is, needless to say, a masterpiece. The cover features a stunning couple (me and Ivana, presumably) locked in a passionate embrace in front of a roaring fire. The book is inscribed "To Ivana Love, the world's greatest lover of all time — Jerry Zezima."

The story, which probably would be rated PG, opens as Ivana is carrying groceries to her car. Distracted by the sight of a dazzling emerald pendant in a jewelry store, she collides with "a very surprised, very solid man" (me), who apologizes and offers to buy her dinner. "He held out a tanned hand and added, 'By the way, I'm Jerry Zezima.'

"'Ivana Love,' she replied. His strong hand clasped hers as she gazed into his ruggedly handsome face."

The next evening, we meet at Chez Stadium. "Jerry stood back to admire her sensual beauty and smiled with pleasure. 'I'm glad you came,' he said softly. She felt herself begin to glow with a pleasure that radiated across her exquisite face. 'So am I,' she breathed."

Naturally, Ivana and I fall instantly in love. But there are dark secrets. "She was surprised to learn that he was a newspaper columnist, but she did not pursue it. It was hard to believe that this man's life was as dull as he made it out to be. 'Uneventful' was the word he had used. Little did Ivana know how far from the truth that would prove to be."

Enter the villain, Sy the Baron von Attica. I won't spoil it for you, but the Baron has a dastardly scheme to smuggle jewels from my emerald mines, which I run when I am not writing a column. This places Ivana in great danger from which I, the hero, must save her.

I suppose I won't be giving anything away by revealing that Ivana and I live happily ever after. "She raised her face to look deeply into his eyes. Her beauty was so breathtaking, it nearly broke his heart... 'Never let me go,' she breathed at last, contented. 'I won't, Toots,' he said. 'Never again.'" *(The Stamford Advocate)*

GRAPEVINE By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Ehud Barak making a cameo appearance on Purim with his masquerading children. (Israel Hadari)

King for a night

'Usually I'm the ambassador. Tonight I am the king," said South African Ambassador **Frank Land** as he greeted guests at the Purim party which he and his wife, **Maatchen**, hosted at their home in aid of Yad B'Yad, the organization that offers warm homes to children from economically and emotionally deprived backgrounds.

Scepter in hand, Land was decked out in a jewel-encrusted gold crown and floor-length purple velvet gold-trimmed cape. Rather than play the queen, his wife opted for a dress that synthesized Carmen and Scarlett O'Hara.

Participants included Land's predecessor, **Malcolm Ferguson**, who now heads the Middle East desk at the South African Foreign Ministry.

Yugoslavian Ambassador **Mirko Stefanovic** had gotten hold of an Israeli police uniform. To make sure he wouldn't get into trouble, Internal Security Minister **Avigdor Kahalani** temporarily recruited him into the police force, stipulating that Stefanovic's jurisdiction did not extend beyond the kitchen.

Egyptian ambassador **Mohammed Bassiouny** came without his wife, **Nagwa**, who had another social engagement. Tel Aviv mayor **Ronni Milo** arrived at the tail end of the speech by Yad B'Yad founder and president **Sheli Hoshen** and encountered some good-natured ribbing about his Adloyada Purim ride on a white horse.

Health Minister **Yehoshua Matza** told Milo that he should stay on the horse until at least 2004 – the implication being that then he would not challenge Binyamin Netanyahu for prime minister come next elections.

AT THE Purim party hosted by the Women in Green at Beit Orot, Moledet MK **Rehavam Ze'evi** came dressed as – what else? – a Woman in Green. Despite heavy competition from more creatively and exotically garbed guests, he won the prize for best costume.

On the other side of the political spectrum, Labor Party chairman **Ehud Barak** spent Purim at his home in Kochav Yair. Barak left all the masquerading to his children.



Rehavam Ze'evi, out of costume (Israel Sun)

FORMER MK **Geula Cohen**, who hosts a radio talk show on Radio 2, was slightly nonplussed Thursday night, and small wonder. The news report halfway through her program contained an item stating that the attorney-general had authorized the police to conduct an investigation into allegedly fraudulent and corrupt activities by Justice Minister **Tzahi Hanegbi**, who is Cohen's son.

BECAUSE Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu** and members of his family went to hear the reading of the Purim Megilla at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue, many of the regular congregants chose to go elsewhere. It wasn't that the Netanyahus weren't welcome; it was just that some people don't like the idea of having to stand in line and be searched before entering a house of prayer.

IT'S NEVER too late to have a bar mitzva. Economics professor **Norman Cohen** might never have gotten around to it but for a chance meeting with Rabbi **Emanuel Quint** and his wife, **Rena**.

Former New Yorkers, the Quints, who live in Jerusalem, accompanied their good friends **Marvin** and **Jane Klitsner** to Milwaukee last year to celebrate the 105th birthday of Jane Klitsner's mother, **Anna Traxler**. There they met Cohen and his wife, **Lucille**, who told them they were coming to Israel for the Klitsners' 50th wedding anniversary, which coincided with Cohen's 80th birthday.

"It's a shame it's not your 83rd birthday," said Quint. "Then we could also celebrate the 70th anniversary of your bar mitzva."

"No we couldn't," retorted Cohen. "I never had a bar mitzva."

"Do you want to have one in Jerusalem?" asked Quint. The answer was affirmative.

So last Saturday at Jerusalem's Hovevei Zion Synagogue Cohen not only had a bar mitzva but also participated with other *kohanim* in the priestly blessing of the congregation.

The Quints hosted a bar-mitzva luncheon at which the guests included the Klitsners, as well as Milwaukeeans **Ruth** and **Jerry Traxler** and **Isabelle** and **Alfred Bader**, an internationally renowned philanthropist, art expert and collector.

The Quints were so busy with the Cohen event that they almost forgot their own 39th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on Sunday at the wedding of **Marian Tolansky** to Rabbi **Macy Gordon**.

WHEN THE invitation to a party is for the day before Purim, it's only natural for guests to be asked to come in disguise. But friends who arrived at Jerusalem's Ariel Hotel for the bat mitzva of **Talia**, daughter of former San Francisco Jewish Federation Israel director **Natan Golan** and his wife, **Rhoda**, were far outshone by the family, who had rented their attire from a theatrical costume company.

Natan, glittering and sparkling in a spectacular purple cutaway coat and matching hat, complemented Little Prince **Aviel** in gold and red velvet. But the real scene-stealers were Rhoda, Talia and older sister **Dina**, who dazzled the eye in bejeweled hooped crinolines. All that heavy metal made sitting down something of a challenge – but it didn't stop the ladies from dancing the night away.

Among the entertainment was a mini-musical, sung lustily by the family and dedicated to Talia, based on hits from her favorite show, *Phantom of the Opera*. Natan, who has played leading roles in several JEST theater group productions, clearly felt at home on stage.

"You've made me feel like a queen tonight," said the beaming bat-mitzva girl.



'Will I see my children again?'

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie,

My problem is very difficult for me to write about, but I need advice from someone like you. I have recently renewed contact with my children from my first marriage. They live in Copenhagen, where I left them with their mother 28 years ago. They are now married and have children of their own.

I am now 63 and have no way of going to visit them because of my low income, and a chronic fear of flying. They too have financial problems and can't afford the high cost of hotels in Israel.

I haven't told them about my income or fear of flying as it is an embarrassment to me. My present wife is a bit jealous because we also have two children here who would like very much to see their siblings. I am tired of making excuses and my health is not standing up to the strain of fearing I may never see my first children again before it is too late.

I know this sounds far-fetched but it's all true. And I would like to know if there is someone out there who can give me some sound advice. Will I ever see my children again?

Tied in Family Knots
Tel Aviv

Dear Tied in Knots,

Before dealing with the technical side of your problem, you must first untie the internal knots which are preventing you from seeing your options. The first and most difficult step is to be as honest as possible with yourself about the real source of the "strain" which is taking its toll on your health.

Though you make a point of stressing your low income and fear of flying, the thing which seems to be preventing you from working out a solution "before it's too late" is your relationship with your wife, whom you describe as "jealous" of your desire to reunite with your first family, and of her children's desire to meet their siblings.

Another element you must consider is your own ambivalence regarding a family you left almost three decades ago and haven't seen since. As an active father to your second set of children, you probably feel extremely guilty towards your first set. If so, seeing them now that they are adults is probably causing you extreme anxiety. Your wish to reunite with them may be a direct result of your deeper desire to take control of the parts of your life which you let slip out of your control. Your fear of flying may even be the expression which your fear of losing control has taken – the fear of losing your "ground."

As long as your own wavering remains, your wife will constitute an obstacle. As soon as you are at peace with your decision to meet with your previous family, your wife will have no alternative but to accept it.

If you can reach some degree of internal peace on this score, the geography and finances will work themselves out. For one thing, it is not necessary to *fly* to Copenhagen. You can go by boat and train. For another, you might be able to get a loan – either from the bank or from another source – to finance the trip. A third possibility is to have your Danish family come to Israel, and stay in a nearby rented flat, rather than in a hotel. If you really wish to see your estranged children again, there is a way. Allow yourself to find it.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in* In Jerusalem *and* City Lights *on Fridays.)

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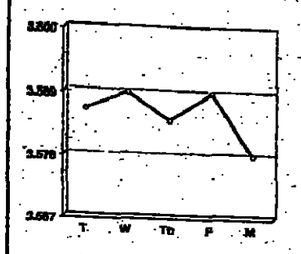
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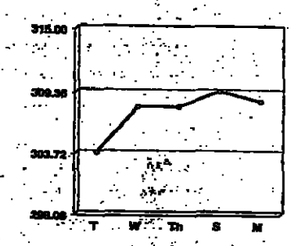
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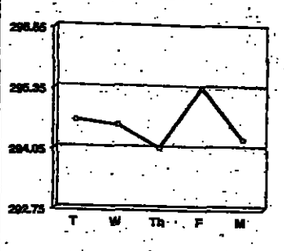
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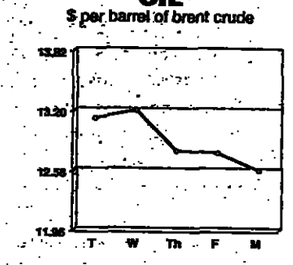
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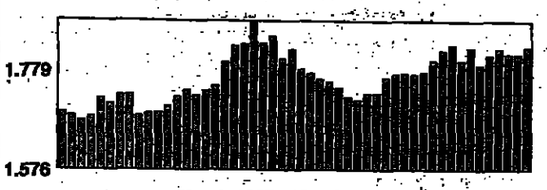
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OIL
$ per barrel of brent crude



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Government debt still high

The government debt as a percentage of gross domestic product decreased for the third consecutive year in 1997 to 106 percent of GDP, from 108% in 1996, the Bank of Israel said yesterday. In absolute terms, however, debt rose 3.1% after inflation, reaching NIS 360.8 billion. The central bank attributed the rise to a 5.3% increase in external debt, which amounts to some 25% of the total debt. The current rate is still substantially higher than the national debt of 60% of GDP set by the Maastricht Treaty for countries wishing to join the single European currency. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

IEC to raise $575m. in the U.S.

The Israel Electric Corporation intends to raise some $575 million by issuing bonds in the United States, the company's chairman, Gad Ya'acobi said yesterday. The company raised $1.2 billion in Japan and the US by issuing global medium-term notes. The company hopes that it would be able to repeat the successful offering and raise an additional $575m. by the end of the year. The utility said that it plans to use the money to improve customer service and improve its efficiency. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Investments worth $11m. approved

The Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center this week approved aid for investments totaling $11 million. In Julis, a building materials company is to be established at an investment of $3m. In Jerusalem, RTS systems is to make an $800,000 expansion. A $530,000 expansion of a high-tech company in Givatayim, BVR Technologies, was also approved. *Nina Gilbert*

M1 drops 0.6% in February

The Bank of Israel's M1 money supply gauge dropped 0.6 percent in February after rising 0.4% in January, the central bank yesterday said. The report follows Sunday's surprising announcement that the February consumer price index decreased by 0.1%, in what is seen as another sign of a slowdown in the economy. The M1, which includes the sum of currency, demand, deposit and travelers' checks, significantly reflects the credit given by the banks to the business sector. The money supply has risen 7.3% during the last 12 months. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

ECI forms Brazilian joint venture

ECI Telecom yesterday said that it has joined with Evadin, a Brazilian electronic industrial group, to form a company that will operate in Brazil. The company, named ECI Telecom do Brazil, will promote the sales and marketing of a ECI products and solutions. Avi Tzur, president of the new company, said that the telecommunications market in Brazil is currently undergoing a restructuring process. He added that the new joint venture will combine ECI's technological advantage with Evadin's marketing capabilities. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

1997 growth rate only 1.9%

Gross domestic product for 1997 rose by only 1.9 percent, while business product rose only 1.5%, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The report is seen as another indicator that the recession is deepening. During the last quarter of '97, there was a worrying decline in growth rate, investments, and the standard of living.

The CBS adjusted its '97 figures downward by 0.2%, following shrinking investments and significant slowdown in activities in the industrial and building sectors in the second half of the year.

In previous estimates, published at the end of last year, the GDP rose 2.1%.

Product per capita fell 0.5% last year, after rising 1.8% in '96, and 4.2% in '95. Product per capita amounted last year to NIS 58,000, which is $17,000 in fixed prices, similar to '96.

The CBS notes that the decline in the product per capita is worrisome, since it rose 2% in industrialized OECD countries. It has also become evident that per capita private consumption rose only 0.9% last year, compared to a 2.6% rise, and 4.6% rise in '96 and '95 respectively.

Per capita consumer product consumption dropped 1.3% during this period, compared to a 2.8% rise and a 13% rise respectively. General private consumption rose only 3.3%, compared to 5.2% in '96 and 7.4% in '95.

The figures indicate a worsening of economic activity in the last quarter, and a drop in investments.

Business product rose in the last quarter at an annual rate of only 0.4%, while the GDP rose only 1.2%. This represents the lowest growth level in recent years.

Product per capita fell in the last quarter at an annual rate of 1.7%, compared to a fall of 0.7% in the previous quarter, and a standstill in the second quarter. Private consumption fell 2% per capita in the last quarter.

Senior Finance Ministry officials were surprised by the extent of the decline in investments and growth rate in the second half of the year. According to them, there will be only 1%-1.5% growth this year, compared to 3% as determined in the state budget.

CBS economists also noted that the figures point to a severe slowdown in economic activity, particularly in the second half of the year. They added that January-February figures do not indicate a revival in the coming months. (Globes)



Protesting high interest rates
A demonstrator kicks a protective steel shutter on a bank during a protest against high interest rates in Manila yesterday. About 500 members of a consumer group protested against the high bank lending rates, which have pushed up prices of basic commodities. Bank traders said they expect the rates to go down in the coming days following the sharp reduction in the Treasury bill auction rates. (Reuters)

'Shabbat main obstacle to El Al sale'

By NINA GILBERT

It won't be possible to privatize El Al as long as the issues of Shabbat flights and security arrangements aren't resolved, Knesset Economics Committee Chairman MK Avi Yehezkel (Labor) said yesterday.

"Until a decision is made on both issues, it won't be possible to sell El Al to private investors. No owners will enter into such a deal," he said.

Currently the General Security Service is responsible for security.

Yehezkel, who was speaking at a committee discussion on the privatization of the airline, said he did not believe the privatization could take place for another two years, under a different government.

He said the process must take into account the workers in all of its phases. The ministerial committee on privatization is to convene next week to consider new proposals for the sale of El Al.

A compromise solution to the Shabbat problem is to sell 49 percent of the company on the stock exchange, thus leaving government control of the airline and putting off the decision on Shabbat flights.

In his first appearance before the committee, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom said he wants to advance the privatization of El Al under this government and to begin the process this year.

However, he said, the process must be carried out while ensuring several things. First, he said, $180 million must be found to compensate workers.

The privatization should also be carried out via the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and not sold to private investors, in order to prevent control of the airline by a few wealthy families or institutions which can buy almost any company offered for sale, he said. "This would not be good for El Al," he said, according to a protocol of the session.

Finally, he said, the government should make a decision to sell only 49% at the first stage and to keep 51% for at least two years.

This will ensure the preservation of the national nature of the airline and ensure the two principles this entails as the nation's airline: no Shabbat flights and security.

"El Al will remain a symbol of the country and an important principle of Judaism is Shabbat," Yahalom said. "This privatization is hardly a privatization," Yehezkel said in response.

El Al director-general Yoel Feldschuh said the proposal suggested by Yahalom "is excellent" and will help turn El Al into a business-oriented company that can compete in the world market. Israel should follow the example of other countries which have privatized national airlines, he said.

Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni noted that the original proposal submitted to the government was for the sale of all its shares in El Al.

She said she supports Yahalom's proposal and would work to bring it before the ministerial committee.

Meanwhile, El Al's management yesterday decided to make cutbacks in its operations in Europe that are expected to save $2 million. The company decided on the move due to the continued drop in tourism from Europe.

One fifth of Palestinians live below poverty line – study

News agencies

About 19.1 percent of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip live below the poverty line because of volatile labor conditions caused by frequent closures, a Palestinian study said yesterday.

The study, carried out by the Palestinian Economics and Trade Ministry and the World Bank, said that Palestinians' economic conditions have worsened since the signing of the 1993 peace deals and economic protocols.

The study said that "19.1% of the 2.5 million Palestinian population live under the poverty line, which means they get the equivalent of $650 annually or $2 per day."

"At the same time, 500,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip live on the poverty line," it said.

Closures were the main reason for the slowdown in the Palestinian private sector and labor market, the study said.

Since 1993, Israel has frequently sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to suicide bombings. The closures, which restrict the movement of goods and people, have occasionally been eased, but never lifted completely.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians who worked in Israel have been affected by the closures. The number of laborers working in Israel dropped from 116,000 in 1993 to 28,000 in 1997.

The study said that unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza has almost doubled since 1993, rising to 28.4% in 1997 from 18.2% in 1995. World Bank officials said the rate is considered to be among the highest in the world.

The frequent closures have also pushed up the cost of transporting goods and pushed down the volume and value of trade. Between 1992 and 1995, revenues fell to 48% of gross national product from 61%, and exports dropped from 14% of GNP to 12%, the study said.

Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Orr, IDF coordinator in the territories, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that the economic situation has improved in the territories, although it is still not satisfactory.

He said there is no limit on the number of Palestinian workers entering Israel and there is increased trade between Israel and the autonomous areas. The improved feeling of well-being can reduce the ability of terror organizations to recruit activists, Orr said.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

100 Israeli companies at CeBIT '98

By NINA GILBERT

More than 100 Israeli companies are to participate in the prestigious CeBIT '98 annual technology exhibition in Hannover, Germany, which opens Thursday.

Some 6,800 companies will have exhibits at the fair, where new technologies are unveiled for suppliers, buyers, journalists and government officials.

"The exhibition is an important showcase for penetration of Israeli high-tech into the international market. The fair always brings in business, investments and cooperation agreements for Israeli high-tech companies," said Daniel Bloch of the Israel Export Institute.

"CeBIT is the most important electronics and high-tech exhibition. Israel has become a fixture at the event," he added.

The Israeli pavilion, which will house 70 companies, is being organized by the Israel Export Institute. For the first time, it will include several start-up companies.

Chief Scientist Orna Berry is to speak at the exhibit to highlight Israel's unique research and product development capabilities, especially in electronics and telecommunications, and its excellence in establishing new high-tech companies.

Last year, three Israeli companies received a Best Product award, including the Jerusalem company Wizcom for its Quicktionary product.

New products to be displayed by Israeli companies include technology in the field of smart cards, translations, security protection for transferring data and pictures through the Internet and electronic mail, voice recognition technologies, faxes, anti-virus, cellular phones, and database surfing.

Employment Service chief:

Hatred for foreign workers on the rise

By DAVID HARRIS

If Israel does not move quickly to drastically reduce the numbers of legal and illegal foreign workers the country will soon face a situation like that posed by the enormous influx of Turkish workers to Germany, according to Employment Service Director-General Moshe Dimri.

"The Israeli economy is addicted to this [foreign labor], and it won't be easy to wean us of it," said Dimri. "The damage being caused here – socially, economically and even from a security perspective – as a result of the some 10 percent of the workforce being foreign is enormous. If there is no firm, courageous and clear policy, I fear that in another 10 years we'll see one million foreign workers in Israel. They will bring their wives, and their children will be born here."

Israelis are becoming increasingly alienated from and resentful of the foreign workers, he said.

Asked if this could lead to type of scenes of violence witnessed against Turkish workers in Germany, he replied "absolutely yes."

"We are seeing [among the foreign workers] alcoholism, drug-taking, theft, prostitution and even incidents of rape," added Dimri.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, together with the Employment Service, are calling for:

- A reduction in the numbers of workers from 10% of the workforce to 1%, "the sooner the better."
- A widespread program for the extradition of illegal workers, done as "humanely as possible," so as not to create diplomatic incidents with the workers' countries of origin.
- Increasing fines for employers of illegal workers from NIS 2,500 to NIS 50,000.

"In order to replace the foreign workers we are prepared to increase the number of Palestinians workers from the current 50,000 to 100,000," said Dimri. "The Employment Service in the [Palestinian Authority] is working very closely with us on this."

Clal Electronics moves into the red

Clal Electronics Industries yesterday reported a fourth-quarter net loss of NIS 7.1 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 58.6m. in the corresponding period last year.

The company attributed the decline to lower revenues and a one-time charge arising from the sale of its holdings in Mennen Medical. Revenues for the last quarter fell sharply to NIS 78.7m. from NIS 139.9m. a year earlier.

During the whole of 1997, Clal reported a net profit of NIS 158.4m., compared with a net profit of NIS 119.8m. in 1996. Despite the rise in net profit, revenues fell in 1997 to NIS 317m. from NIS 326.3m. in the previous year.

Clal holds stakes in some of Israel's leading electronic companies, including Scitex Corp and ECI Telecom. ECI's net profit rose 30% in 1997 to NIS 468m. from NIS 359m. in 1996 and sales increased 15% last year to NIS 2.4 billion from NIS 2.1b. in the previous year.

Scitex returned to earning profit after two straight years of losses; the company recorded a net profit of NIS 2m. in 1997 compared with a net loss of NIS 630m. in 1996. Sales fell meanwhile to NIS 2.4b. from NIS 2.5b. in 1996.

Clal Electronics said that the loss in the forth quarter includes allocations for expected losses arising mainly from the sale of its holdings in Mennen and a decline in the value of its holdings in AG Associates. The company said that its net profit before the one-time charge rose to NIS 31.1m. from NIS 7.2m.

Alltel to acquire 360 Communications for $6b.

Alltel Corp., as expected, agreed to buy 360 Communications Co. for about $6 billion in stock and assumed debt to expand its wireless phone business in the southeastern US.

Alltel will exchange 0.74 share for each of 360 Communications' 121.6 million shares, or about $4.12 billion. 360 shareholders will get $33.90 per share, less than 360's close of 35 5/8 on Friday, when the companies' negotiations first were reported.

Buying 360 Communications will more than triple Alltel's wireless subscribers, making it a stronger competitor in BellSouth Corp.'s fast-growing southern region. The purchase comes amid a wave of acquisitions in the phone industry as companies seek to offer a range of services from Internet access to long distance.

"The acquisitions will continue," said Tony Ferrugia, an analyst at A.G. Edwards & Sons. Alltel also will assume $1.85 billion in debt.

"It's a pretty reasonable price," Ferrugia said. The combined company will have $4.5 billion in annual revenue, more than 5.6 million customers in 22 states and more than 20,000 employees. The company will retain Alltel's Little Rock, Arkansas headquarters and market its services under the Alltel brand name. (Bloomberg)

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Building Blocks
By Niva Gilberi

TEL AVIV and the center

■ Reshef Nehesim, the realty chain specializing in commercial property, has recently entered the residential market. According to a survey conducted for the agency, housing prices will only recover in 1999. The agency said there is a glut in the Tel Aviv luxury housing market, which will make it difficult for contractors to raise prices. However, in some areas of Tel Aviv prices of apartments less than $500,000 are expected to rise by 2 percent to 3%. In Givatayim and Ramat Gan, prices are expected to stay stable, whereas in Petah Tikva they are expected to rise by 8%, despite the massive building in the area. The firm is to offer 20 residential franchises this year.

■ Seven units have been sold in the past month in the Netanya Carmel Hotel for a total of $880,000. The apartment hotel has 40-sq.m. studio units priced from $118,000 and two-room apartments from $172,000. The management allows buyers to rent the apartments to the hotel for $400 a month for studios and to have the right to use them for 45 days a year. The luxury building, on the beach in southern Netanya, has a large swimming pool.

■ Until the end of the month, A.L.D.H. Building and Investments Ltd. is offering $5,000 worth of appliances to buyers in its Pisgat Ha'ir project in Petah Tikva. Since the deal began, the company has sold 18 apartments for a total of $3 million. The eight-story building has three and four-room apartments, priced from $159,000 and $189,000 and underground parking.

■ In Ashdod, Afridar is building a housing complex in a country-club style. The 15 buildings, including a total of 1,020 apartments, are to be built around a green area with a swimming pool and health club for residents' use. The complex is half a kilometer from the Ashdod marina. About 25 percent of the project has already been sold at asking prices, ranging from $128,000 for three-room 94-sq.m. apartments to $175,000 for five-room 14-0 sq.m. homes.

■ A four-room 120 sq.m. apartment on Rehov Kashani in Ramat Aviv was sold for $360,000 by Anglo-Saxon. The apartment, on the fifth floor, is in excellent condition. In Ramat Gan, the agency sold a two-room apartment on Rehov Aminadav for $133,000. The 60-sq.m. apartment is on the second floor without an elevator and has building rights on the roof. On Rehov Boaz, a two-room 55-sq.m. ground floor apartment was sold for $135,000.

HAIFA and the north

■ A housing fair for the northern area, from Hadera to Metulla, beings tonight and continues through Thursday at the Haifa International Convention Center. The event, open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., is being held in conjunction with a fair on building, renovations, design and planning. Some 2,000 homes of all types, including apartments, penthouses, cottages and single-family homes, will be offered at the fair. Six mortgage banks will also have representatives at the event. Dozens of companies will be displaying materials for renovating the home.

■ Africa-Israel has sold 37 apartments in its Givat Savyonim project in Yokne'am for a total of $5.5 million. The project, mostly aimed at those eligible for Housing Ministry mortgages, has a total of 108 units, including three- and four-room apartments and six-room cottages. Three-room apartments start at $123,000, four rooms at $139,000 and cottages from $187,000. The company said most of the buyers are young couples from Haifa.

■ A four-room apartment on Rehov Ra'anan in Haifa was sold by Anglo-Saxon for $187,000. The 100-sq.m. apartment is on the second floor with a panoramic view and has parking and a storage room. On Rehov Hillel, the agency sold a two-and-a-half room apartment for $87,000. The 70-sq.m. first-floor apartment is renovated and has a view. On Sderot Moriah, a two-room 60-sq.m. apartment on the ground floor in need of renovations was sold for $149,000.

■ Five half-dunam plots of land were sold over the past two weeks in Nadiv Valley, between Zichron Ya'acov and Binyamina, for a total of $100,000. At present, the lots are designated for agricultural use. The Private Land Development Company said the sales were a result of its offer of payments via credit card. The plots are near the future site of a wine park for tourists. The plots are being marketed via the Dan-City Real Estate in Ra'anana.

Surfing toward a master's

Bending to meet the needs of corporations that can't spare executives for long absences, top American colleges are offering advanced studies online

By KIMBERLY TRUSKOWSKI AND ANTHONY EFFINGER

When Leo Burnett Co. ad executive Alain Groenendaal got his MBA from Duke University, he spent just five weeks on the college's North Carolina campus. Classmates from Poland and China did the same.

The executives used the Internet to discuss projects, chat with professors and take the tests needed to earn a Master of Business Administration degree. Groenendaal, who travels frequently from his office in Brazil, often put his ideas on Duke's Web page before a business trip and got feedback from classmates by the time he landed.

Duke and other top colleges like Stanford University are making advanced degrees available online, bending to corporations that can't spare executives for long absences.

AT&T Corp., Texas Instruments Inc. and others welcome Internet education because it makes better use of the $10 billion a year they spend to shuttle employees to training programs and pay for time lost from work. "In the Industrial Age, we went to school. In the Information Age, school comes to us," said Andy DiPaolo, assistant dean of engineering at Palo Alto, California-based Stanford, which offers a master's in engineering on the Net.

With US unemployment at 4.6 percent, the lowest in a quarter century, keeping workers on the job while they get more education is crucial. Each person who leaves a company costs his former employer $50,000 in lost productivity and training, said Challenger Gray & Christmas, which aids in employment searches.

"The people we're tracking as leaders have a lot of opportunities. If we don't invest in intriguing programs, they'll look elsewhere," said Dennis Gay, director of human resources development at Sea Land Corp., a subsidiary of CSX Corp. Some Sea Land executives are pursuing Duke's online MBA.

Spotting the need, many universities are pushing to get online. Duke spent $1 million to develop the Fuqua School of Business Global Executive MBA Program. Ohio University's College of Business offers an "MBA Without Boundaries."



Businesses such as AT&T and Texas Instruments welcome Internet education because it makes better use of the $10 billion a year they spend to shuttle employees to training programs and pay for time lost from work. (Hanoch Guthmann)

Net-based education is proving lucrative for the pioneers. Shares of Apollo Group Inc., whose University of Phoenix lets students get MBAs and other degrees online, have almost doubled in the past 12 months from around 24 last March to 46 in recent trading. Apollo's sales rose 32 percent to $279.2 million last year.

Attendance at the University of Phoenix's online education program has as much as doubled in recent years, compared with 20% increases for its more traditional night-school courses.

AT&T encourages its employees to get MBAs at the University of Phoenix. In addition, AT&T workers can get credit for courses they take at the company when they enroll at the university.

At Texas Instruments, about 7,000 employees are taking online courses, and a handful are getting MBAs.

"It's been wonderful to provide training anytime, anywhere," said Linda Smittle, a human resources manager at the Dallas-based maker of semiconductors and other electronics.

A challenge for online universities is making sure students don't feel isolated sitting at home with their computers. One of the attractions of business school is developing a network of contacts. Students at Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management get together almost every Friday for the "T.G." (short for Thank God It's Friday), mixers where they eat, drink and mingle with each other and the faculty.

Ohio University still relies on some face-to-face work. During its two-year MBA program, students do three week-long "residencies" and three long weekends on campus. Duke students must do five residential sessions during the program, two at Duke's Durham campus.

Technology has made online education much richer than the correspondence courses of times past. Office hours with professors are held in Internet chat rooms at predetermined times. Ohio University is using Microsoft Corp.'s Net Meeting software to create videoconferences among students. Stanford videotapes some lectures so a student can view them online.

Richard Staelin, managing director of the Duke online MBA program, said so-called distance education must have a blend of regular classroom sessions and Internet learning. "Students and teachers may be in different time zones," he said. "There are times when it's very lonely out there."

That was true for Geoff Peters. The vice president at shipping company Sea Land said he struggled with the Duke curriculum at first because he couldn't get immediate answers to questions on course work, the way he could have in a classroom. Then, he realized that the system wasn't that different from work. Peters communicates with Sea Land offices around the world, often waiting until the next morning to get replies.

Electronic education "closely replicates real life," said Peters, who chose to get his MBA online because he knew the company might ask him to move in the midst of the degree. He was right. Sea Land transferred him to Holland from Charlotte, North Carolina, at the end of his first term.

Professors say online MBA programs quickly weed out people who aren't motivated. With less structure than classroom programs, it can be hard for students to meet deadlines. The wealth of information on the Internet also is changing the quality and focus of students' work, professors say. "I see more papers rich on content and poor on concept," said Patrick Duparcq, a adjunct professor at Northwestern's Kellogg. "It used to be reversed." (Bloomberg)

The dawn of a global era

The imminent exchange-rate liberalization, which would allow institutional investors to invest abroad, is likely to revolutionize the way fund managers oversee our money

MARKET WATCH
By DAN GERSTENFELD

The names of Kimberly-Clark, Zeneca Group, Sumitomo Bank and Mannesmann probably mean very little to local investment managers. But this situation may change very soon.

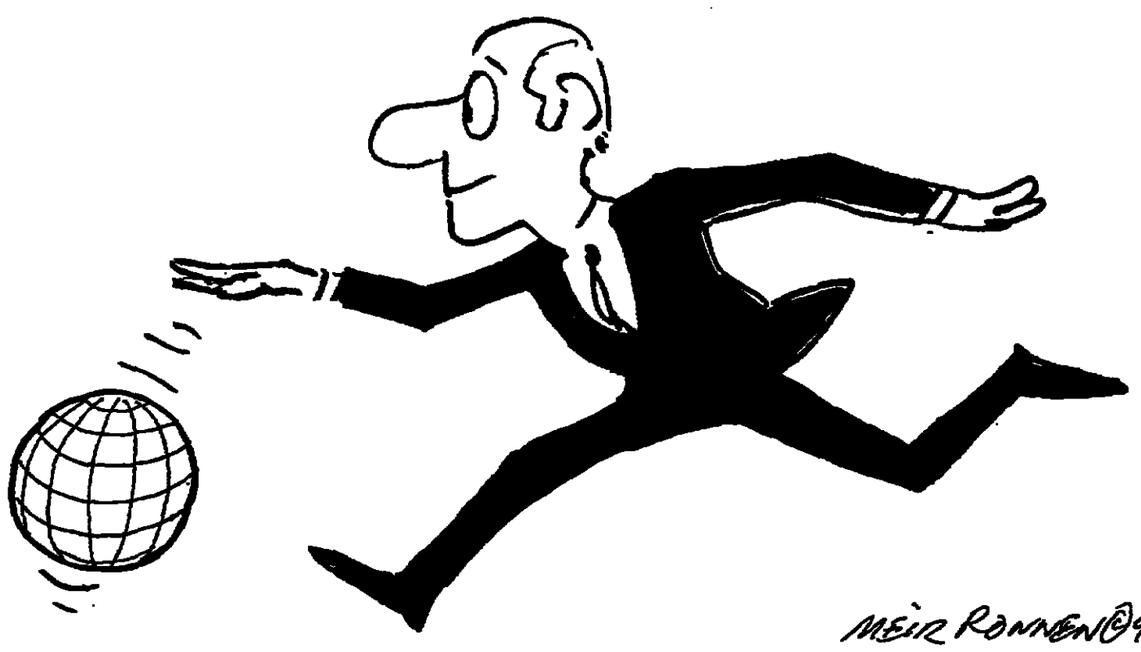
The implementation of a new series of foreign-currency reforms would force executives of large institutional investors not only to recognize these names, but also to follow their performances closely.

Currently, most institutional investors may be well aware of the fact that the list above is comprised of some of the largest world conglomerates, but they probably don't realize that shares of these companies were leading the gains and losses of the New York, London, Tokyo and Frankfurt stock markets last week.

Major announcements made by any of the international leading conglomerates may, in the future, have a direct impact on the results presented by all local institutional investors. The change may take place as soon as the coming Independence Day with the announcement of foreign currency reforms. The exchange-rate liberalization is expected to include, among other things, a permission for institutional investors to invest 5 percent of their assets in overseas markets.

Five percent might seem too insignificant to actually lead to a real change in the investment policy of large local investors, but the move is seen by some analysts as the first step toward a new era. An era in which local funds, who mange billions of shekels, would have to compare possible returns on investments in the local market with those obtained by investing abroad.

If this result is achieved, it will indirectly affect almost each and everyone of us, as most Israelis handle a large part of their savings through those investment funds. Those who allocate part of their monthly salaries to pension funds, provident funds and insurance companies would benefit from the liberalization.



The first step toward raising the activity of local bodies abroad was taken earlier this year when provident funds were granted permission to raise their investments overseas from 2% to 5%. Insurance companies and pensions funds, which are not allowed currently to invest overseas, are expected to receive a similar approval in the near future. In addition, mutual funds would be allowed to raise their holdings out of Israel from 20% to 100%.

In the past, the main obstacle preventing local companies from investing abroad was taxes. Most institutions were required to pay taxes equivalent to 35% of their profits on these investments. Despite the fact that in many cases investments abroad generated higher returns, even after taxation, than investments in the local market, most institutional investors used the this as an excuse to refrain from investing abroad.

Now it seems that the liberalization of exchange controls will also include a lifting or lowering of the those taxes – a step which is likely to lead to a real change in institutional investment strategy.

ONE OF the first companies to realize the potential of the regulatory changes was Ofek Securities and Investments, which announced last week the opening of a special department for overseas investments.

"The liberalization of the foreign-currency regime creates conditions which would allow the Israeli economy to benefit from the globalization process in much the same way it did when foreign investors entered into the local market," said Nitza Rousso-Shtauber, CEO of Ofek.

There is a general consensus today that the entrance of the big international investment houses during the last few years led to a real revolution in the field of equity research. The whole industry changed drastically following the introduction of analyses methods and management tools used by foreign investors.

Rousso-Shtauber believes that the market would continue to make progress with the introduction of investment abroad. "The liberalization has elements that will turn the market into a more healthy one. It will turn the market into an open and competitive one," she said. "The public's portfolio is not diversified enough. We hope that this will lead to a situation in which the portfolio of the institutional and private investors will be more diversified."

Institutional investors mange currently an estimated NIS 150 billion. If 5% – NIS 7.5b. – of this sum goes into investments abroad, the market is expected to change drastically.

It is well known that portfolio mangers and investment mangers tend to focus on the local market rather than on the international one, but Rousso-Shtauber believes that local investors would still look abroad because the process allows for higher returns and reduced risks.

She says that another positive outcome of such a move is that investors would raise their equity holdings. The local institutional investors, which are known to be very conservative, hold only 18% of their assets in stocks, compared with more than 50% held by foreign institutions.

Another major advantage is that investing abroad would grant investors higher flexibility as the markets abroad offer higher liquidity and lower volatility.

Rousso-Shtauber believes that in the long run this will also lead to a situation in which part of the public will be able to overcome the traumatic memories connected to the collapse of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and return once more to invest in stocks.

Perhaps this is only wishful thinking, but as Mao Tse-Tung once said "even the longest march starts with one little step."

The Conference Circuit
By Greer Fay Cashman

17.3 Israel People and Computers is hosting a seminar at Kfar Hamaccabiah to introduce NGTg to people interested in becoming **certified Microsoft systems engineers and Microsoft system developers.**

17.3 The Education and Science Ministries in conjunction with the van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, are hosting the fifth conference in the series **Fifty Years of Science in Israel.** Participants will explore the anthropological, biological and medical findings connected to Israel's ethnic communities.

18.3 **The Second Bar-Ilan University and Universities of Saxony Conference** covers a broad swathe of academic studies. During the two-day conference lecturers from BIU and the Technical University Chemnitz will present close to 30 papers on subjects in the fields of physics and chemistry; psychology; life sciences; mathematics and computer sciences; philosophy; and Jewish history.

18.3 A two-day **global investment seminar** at the Dan Pearl Hotel, Jerusalem, will be conducted by the Friedberg Mercantile Group, an international money-management firm. Topics listed for discussion include: "Asset allocation in uncertain times"; "Alternative asset investments"; "Hedge funds for qualified offshore investors"; and "Trust services for qualified offshore investors." The seminar, which will be repeated on March 23 at the Tel Aviv Hilton, is free of charge, but reservations are required. Contact Alan Ziegler, (02) 652-4912.

19.3 Tel Aviv University's Prof. Shimon Shamir, who is a former ambassador to Jordan, will be among the speakers at a symposium on **Israel-Jordan Relations – From Conflict to Dialogue.** Shamir and other speakers at the symposium taking place at the Students House Conference Hall B at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, will be informed on Israel's relations with the Hashemite Kingdom from strategic and political perspectives; the treaty between Iraq and Jordan; Egyptian policy toward Jordan between 1956 and 1967; Jordan's place in the Arab world and its policies before and during the Six Day War; and where Israel-Jordan relations are heading.

19.3 Political figures from the Arab community will join academics and representatives of the Israel Lands Administration in a symposium on **A Question of Lands.** The event, which will be held on the 30th floor of the Eshkol Tower at Haifa University, is sponsored by the Jewish-Arab Center, the Gustav Heiman Center for Middle East Research and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

19.3 An international seminar on **Information Warfare in the 21st Century: Threats and Responses** will be held at Tel Aviv University's Social Science and Management Library, Gate 5, TAU. The seminar will be conducted in conjunction with the Terrorism Studies Program of the George Washington University.

22.3 The Pinhas Sapir Center for Development at Tel Aviv University, in conjunction with the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development, is holding a two-day conference on **Immigrants and their Transition to a New Labor Market.** All sessions will be held at TAU's Faculty of Social Sciences, Naftali Building, Hall 527. Speakers from Israeli, American, German, Dutch and Irish universities and research institutions will focus on subjects such as "Economic gains from immigration"; "Effects of increased immigration on wages"; and "The impact of mass immigration on the Israeli labor market."

23.3 Prof. Michael Swartz of Ohio State University is the guest lecturer of the Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies at Bar-Ilan University. He will speak on **Person and Place in the Description of the Yom Kippur Service in the Temple.** The lecture will be held at the Weisfeld Auditorium in the Physics Building of BIU.

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	368	4.4
Africa Israel 0.1	24300	1.2
Africa Israel 1	219200	3
Agan	11440	0.3
Agis	2340	0.9
Al Paper Mills	13300	-2.9
Al-Rov	2400	-4.8
Azorim	3000	-1.3
Azorim Prop.	720	0
Bank Leumi 0.1	669	1.2
Bayside 1	2980	-1.7
Bayside 5	44900	2
Bezeq	222000	0
Blue Square	936	2.5
Bronfaire	3310	-1.8
Cal Electronics	3360	1.2
Cal industries	557000	2.2
Cal Insurance	1945	0.6
Cal Israel 1	3460	-0.9
Cal Trade	106.9	-0.1
Dan Hotels	0	0
Dankner	930	0
Darban	1800	-2.8
Dead Sea Works 0.1	828	2.7
Delek 0.1	982	1.2
Delek Car	13450	0.3
Development Morl	519	0
Discount Bank	25200	-1.6
Discount Inv.	369	3.8
Elbit 0.003	9270	-1.1
Elbit Imaging	1300	-2.7
Elbit system	2480	-0.4
Elco	4530	-0.2
Elco Industries	2130	-0.9
Electra	4730	0
Electra App	15350	1.5
Elite Ind. 1	1890	1.8
Elite Ind. 5	2010	-1
Elron 0.003	10980	-1.1
FIBI 5	5950	0
First Int'l 1	68900	0.6
First Int'l 5	33800	2
First Int'l Mort	381100	4.2
Formula	52600	0
General Bank	12020	-0.7
Granit Hacarmel	11510	0
Hadarim Prop.	669	6
Ham-Lei	6450	0
Hapoalim 0.1	2290	1.3
Harel Mishmar 1	980	1.5
Harel Mishmar 5	3320	0.6
I.D.B. Dev.	15560	-0.8
I.D.B. Holdings	7840	-0.3
ILDC	7900	-0.5
Ind Bldgs	2160	-1.9
Israel Chemicals	654	0.6
Israel Corp. 1	454	-1.1
Isrotel	24900	-0.4
Jaffora	720	0.7
JOT	830	0
JEC	392.4	0
Klan	1877	-1.4
Knafaim	430	-0.9
Koor	4000	2.5
Leader	42200	-2.8
Leumi Insurance	1481	-0.2
Leumi Mortgage	804	0.5
Lianz	95700	0.5
Makhteshim	4420	2.7
Maman	2820	0.7
Matab	592	-1.4
Mehadrin	3680	4.5
Mel Erlen	12390	0.8
Melisaron	1450	0.3
Menorah Ins. 1	1078	-2.9
Menorah Ins. 1	1420	2.7
Mibmor	1651	0
Mifalcon	63000	-0.5
Mizrahi Ins.	10750	2.3
NATSWA REGULAR	1368	-1.9
Nice Systems	15940	-2.1
Ocif	8030	-0.9
Orbit	1880	1.1
Ormat Industries	490	-0.8
Osem Industries	1522	0.3
Petrochemicals	1912	1
Phoenix Ins. 1	5100	-1.4
Positiv Inv.	13146	2.4
Prop & Bldg	39000	-2.9
Salt Industries	1616	0.6
Solel Bone	4730	1.1
Supersol	1107	1.7
Tadiran	15240	0
Tambour	740	-1.4
Telefest	213600	0
Tempo	1450	0
Teva	14980	-0.2
Urdan	306	0
Wire and Cables	1408	1.9
Ytong Industries	935	-1

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ablac	2.6	0
Ahisf	88	-9.2
Ace-Spade	144	-10
Ackerstein Bond B	161	0
Ackerstein Ind.	482	2.8
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1348	2.5
Ackerstein Zvi 5	5734	0
adelcom	39.5	0
Adelsin	413245	0
Adler	121	-5.8
Adsha	128	0
Adumim	205	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	86.8	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	43.5	7.4
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	7.7	-2.5
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	128.6	-0.4
Afsta Ind	1988	-1
Agis Warrant 3	42	4.8
Agis Warrant 4	470	-14.9
Agish Ind'	386	0
Agri Investments	298	-5.1
Al-Ben	1345	0
Al-Ben Bond A	107	-2.7
Alba o2	98.5	0
Alba wd	130	-1.4
Alba wt3	0	0
Alliance	787	0
Alon	298	0
Alony-Hetz	465	-1.7
Alony-Hetz Bond A	225	0
Alrod	217	0.5
Alrod Warrant 1	10.8	-2.7
Alrov Bond D	78.2	0
Alrov Warrant 5	290	0
Alumit	169	0.6
Alumit	6920	-1.3
Amigar	214	-0.5
Amitec	341	0
Aromati Warrant 1	15.8	-7.1
Amnet	544	0
Ampa Investments	119141	0
Analyst EMS	1282	0
Angel Trade	41.6	-0.5
Angel Trade Bond A	148	0
Angel Trade Bond B	118.5	0
Angel Trade Bond C	83.5	0
Angel Trade Warrant 2	1.3	0
Apcon	397	1
Apcon warrant 1	286	0
Applicom	2505	0
Aracell Warrant 2	284	0
Arad	1989	-2
Arad Towels	965	0
Arazim	91	-0.5
Arazim Bond 1	235	0
Argoman	220	0
Ariadan	1100	0
Arpal	577	0
Arpi	83	1.8
Ashkelon Plywood	740	-1.5
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	253	0.4
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	132.5	0
Ashtrot	469	-0.2
Ashtrot Bond A	148	-0.3
Ashot	348	-6
Ashot Bond A	164	0
Ashpara	65.5	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	166	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	151.5	0
Ashtrom Ind.	577	0
Ashtrom Prop.	237	0
Ashtrom P Bond 1	91	-0.5
Astrom p warrant a	52.5	6.9
Astrum Bond C	94	-0.5
Astrum Warrant 2	34.9	0
Aston	90	0
Atmor	1791	0.5
ATX	144	-0.3
ATX Bond A	149	0
Atzmon	300	-0.7
Aura	4542	9
Avarot	451	-3
Avarot Bond A	155.5	0
Averbuch Formica	664	0
Avir	500	0
Aviv Bond 1	148	0
Aviv Bond 2	99.5	-0.5
Avner	1.9	0
Avrot Bond 2	90	-0.8
Avrot Warrant 2	71.5	-4.7
Ayalon	525	0
Azimtah	269	-1
Azorim Properties Bond 3	169	5
Azorim Warrant A	640	-4.7
Azorim Warrant B	610	0
Badash Bond 1	49.6	-0.4
Baltil	277	0
Balantine 1	359	4.7
Balantine Bond A	128	0
Balantine Warrant 2	17.5	0
Balcon	5018	10
Bama'asef	126.5	4.6
Bama'asef Bond A	139.5	-0.4
Bar	388	0
Bar Bond A	115	1.3
Barad	267	-0.3
Baranowitz	757	0
Baranowitz Bond 1	0	0
Barkan	754	2.3
Barsel	126	0
Bartal	131.5	0
Baumel Moshe	163.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	86.4	-1.3
BaySide Warrant D	2500	0
Bell Shemesh	1202	2.5
Belmon	250	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	170.5	-0.3
Ben Yakar Bond B	95	1.6
Ben Yakar Gaz	4223	0
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	11.5	10.6
Berman	152.5	-0.7
Bilu	903	0
Blir Bond A	151	-0.3
Blisr	652	7.2
Bisr	265	0
Bkl	84	-1.2
Bokee Bond B	53	-2.3
bokee qad warrant 1	456	0
Borsel Tichon	907	0
Boxjour	142.5	-9.1
Boutous Brothers	233	-0.4
Boutous Brothers Bond 1	420	0
Boutous GD	128	-0.4
Boutous GD Bond A	91.5	0
Brand	72	0
Brik Silka	38.6	-0.5
Broth	139	0
Building Bank	2135	0
Building Resol	3179	5
C Holdings	658	0
C Holdings Bond 5	105.5	-0.5
C Holdings Warrant 3	18.7	5.1
Casseres 1	5048	0
Cedel	3300	-1.2
Capital	807	1
Capitel Bond A	115.5	0
Caprice	425	-10
Cargal	882	0.4
Carmel	509	-1
Carmiel	551	0
Casino	616	-6
Catalana 1	555	0
CDI	203	0
Cemental	702	-4.2
Centre	103.5	0
Centre Bond 1	139	0
Cham	493	0
Chayun Computers	119	0
Chemipal	405	0
Chim-Nir	501	0
CI Systems	268	0
Clelab	307	0
Cal Computer Warrant 3	69	5
Cal Computers	12510	9.6
Cal Industries Bond	209	0
Cal Israel 5	489	0
Cal Retail	58099	0
Cohen Beni	190	0
Cohen Dev.	959	0
Cohen Mil	200	0
Cold Storage 1	1610	0
Cold Storage 5	8520	0
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	247	0
Compl	188.5	-1.8
Compl Warrant 1	17	-12.8
Compulite	188.5	0
Comtech	296	0
Contrans	933	0
Contel	816	0.2
Contractor	20849	0
Coral Beach	944	1.7
Credit Line	5.5	0
Credit Lines Bond A	32.5	0
Cyclone 1	2010	-5
Cyclone Bond 1	241	0
Cyclone Bond 2	145	0
Dalron	1889	5.3
Dalron Bond 1	238	0
Delin	3	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	743	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	158.5	0
Danber 1	3559	0
Danber 5	16573	0
Danber Bond A	275	0
Danber Resources	6492	-1.2
Danber Resources Bond B	159	-0.9
Danber Tech.	5769	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	153.5	-0.3
Daniel	76.5	0
Daniel Bond A	91	0
Daniel Personnel	2950	3.4
Daniel Warrant 2	720	3.5
Danimer Bond 1	203	0
Danimer Bond 2	136.9	-0.4
Danimer Bond 3	90.3	0
Danimer Warrant C	250	0
Danimer Warrant D	32.4	-10
Darlly	792	0
Darad	99.5	0
DARBAN BOND 2	98	-0.2
Darban Bond A	213	0
DARBAN W2	151	12.6
Darban Warrant 3	120	-0.8
Daroa	136	-2.2
Darton	119.5	0
Dash investment	818	1
Data	515	0
Decision Systems	414	10.1
Degem Systems	409	0
Delek Drillings	8.5	0
Delek Oil	1490	0
Delta 1	2345	0
Delta 3	6896	-0.3
Destiny	1070	2.5
Digel	151	0
Dirom1	1706	0.5
Discount 01	0	0
Dolev	409	0
Dolev Bond A	187.5	0
Dolev warrant 1	65	0
Dorotcar	440	0
Dorotcar Bond	145	2.5
Dor Chim	382	-2.6
Doro wt	129	-1.1
Dorsa	57.5	0
Dorf o1	83.5	-1.1
Dorf Engineering	474	0
Dorf Engineering Bond A	135	0
Dowset Bond A	132	0.8
Dowset Shrem	1228	1
Dowset Shrem Warrant 3	80	0
DSI	1228	2.5
Dubek M	2.2	0
Dubek S	2.2	0
Dunlir	292	0
DVG Industries	513	1.8
E & M Computing	1111	0
Edgar Retail	1142.5	0
Edgar Industries	172.5	0
Edgar Inv. Bond C	83.5	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 4	0	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	23.2	-8.8
Eilat Bond A	98	0
Elit	342	3.9
Elsam	347	2.1
El Bad	17000	2.2
El Ceali	737	0
El Ceali Bond 1	154	0
Elad	436	0
Elad Bond A	168.5	-0.3
Elad Bond B	137	-1.1
Elad o3	72	-1.4
Elad w5	51	0
El-Ch-Computers Bond B	119.5	0
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	721	-3
Elden Tech.	192	4.1
Electronics Line	550	3.8
Elgar	4590	0
Elishav	366	0
Elisch Ind.	527	-1
Elsam	359	2.8
Elta	451	0
Elta Bond A	149	-0.3
Elran	3312	-2
Elron Warrant 2	2220	5.3
Emsk	127	0
Enyla	569	0
Eqpal Const.	309	0
Eqpal	1957	0.3
Eshed Robotech	211	0
Even	365	0
Evergreen	3807	0
Excellence	1978	0.5
Export Inv.	945	-1.1
Extra	164.5	1.9
Feldman	185	7.1
Feldman Bond A	145	0
Feldman Ind.	187	0
Feldman Warrant 3	18	0
Fertilizers 1	128	0.8
Feuchtwanger 1	9680	-1
Feuchtwanger 5	47500	-1.1
Fidelity	2702	0
Five J Jewelers	307	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	719	-1.7
Formica Source	199	0
Frutarom	907	0
Gahelet	18408	1.3
Galcom	219	2.8
Galram	1213	-1
Gama	216	-0.5
Gamatronic	591	0
Gambit	1327	0
Gan ShmoelBond A	98	0
Gan ShmoelWarrant 3	327	0
Gan Shmuel	943	0
Ganel Hardis	403	0.5
Gap Development	114	0
Gap Holdings	301	5
Gap Warrant 2	12.2	-31.8
Gazit	680	-1
Gazit Bond B	146	0
Gazit Bond C	115.5	-0.4
Gazit Warrant 4	0	0
Gibor Bond 1	85	0
Gibor Bond A	85	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	680	4.2
Gibor Warrant 2	97	12.1
Gilbox	140	9.4
Gillo	134	0
Gilltek	1404	0
Givot Olam Oil	108	-1.9
Glob Filt	827	0.2
Golan	910	0
Gold	448	0
Golden House	351	0
Golden House Bond 1	237	0
Golax	155	0
Granit Bond	141.2	0.1
Granit Bond 2	140.9	2.8
Green Software	272	5
Greenberg	881	5.1
H. Electronics	71.5	0
H. Mor	969	-0.6
Habas	3141	1.3
Habas Bond 1	133	0.4
Hadar 1	22771	0
Hadar 5	67255	1
Hadar Ins. 1	7702	0
Hadar Ins. 5	3697	0
Hadarim Bond1	110	-0.9
Hadarim Warrant1	1080	-0.9
Hagal	394	10.1
Hagal Bond B	150.5	-0.7
Hamalor	404	1.3
Hanel	7.2	0
Harel Bond A	410	0
Hasin Esh	532	0
Hason	183	0
Hatchot 1	215	2.4
Hatchot Bond A	141.5	0
Hod Aczi Music	404	0
Hiron 1	11043	4.2
Hiron 5	42778	0
Hl. Service Bond 2	175.5	0
Hl. Service Bond 3	140.5	-1.1
Hl. Services	2151	0
Hod	691	-0.3
Hof	125	0
Holit	189	-0.9
Hydraulics	588	0
IES Industries	1005	0
IES Warrant 1	185	0
Ilan Gat	149	0
Ilan Gat Bond A	250	0
ILDC Bond 6	331	0
ILDC Hotels	183.5	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	67	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	345	0
ILDC Insurance	130.5	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	1370	0
Imco	68	-1.5
Ind Bld Warrant 3	45	4.2
Ind Bldgs R1	285	0
Ind.Dev.Bank G	2680	0.8
Ind.Dev.Bank OC	2730	5
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1702	0.8
Independence Mort	92976	1.7
Interconsole	738	-10
Intergamma 1	3641	0
Intergamma 5	15435	0
Isracar	1579	1.7
Ispro	3886	0
Isracolor	559	0
Israel Corp. 5	100000	-3.8
Israel Lighterage-Bond 3	193.5	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	177	0
Isradion	1378	0
Isradion Bond B	257	0
Isradion Bond C	69	-1.1
Isradion Warrant 3	6.3	0
Isramco	3.5	0
Issta 1	5887	0
Issta 5	26098	0
Issta Bond A	244	0
ISTA LINES	2020	0
Jakora Bond A	180	0
Jaywow	173	0
Jerusalem Bond A	106	-4.8
JED Bond B	90.1	-1.4
JED Warrant 3	0	0
Jerusalem Mort	186	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	151.5	-4.7
Jevanese	30.2	0
JOEL	108.5	-0.9
JOEL Bond 1A	224	-0.4
JOEL Bond 2	120	0
JOEL Bond A	228	0
JOEL Warrant 3	9.6	-2.7
Kadimad	180.5	0
Kadoud	282	3.3
kafolca bond b	89	-0.6
kafolca warrant 1	89.5	-2.7
Kahiti	1208	1.3
Kallcalit Bond A	93.5	0
Kallcalit warrant 2	301	0.3
Kamour	572	5
Kamour Bond G	129.5	0
Kamour Warrant H	0	0
Kamsarit	1115	-0.4
Kanal Warrant G	1.4	7.7
Kanicol	37.5	9.6
Kanicol Bond A	45.6	0.4
Kardan 1	430	-1.4
Kardan 5	2000	1
Katz	128	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3020	-0.3
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	227	0
Kenaxx	356	0
Kesher	799	2.2
Kesher Bond A	144.5	0
Keter	575	0
Kind	18.9	0
Kind Bond A	35.3	0
King	381	0
Kinneret	176.5	0.8
Klach Kinur	180.5	0
Klalfeel Tevila	970	3
Klbel	528	0
Kitel Bond A	152	-2.9
Kitai Bond A	118	-0.8
Kitai Warrant 1	7.2	2.9
Kll Ind. 5	7971	2.2
Koor Bond 5	153.5	-1.2
Kopel	216	-0.5
Koral Bond 1	252	0
La Nationale Bond A	139	-2.1
La Nationale Pref	86	0
Lachish	5163	0
Lamont	851	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1.9	-5
Lapidot Oil Explorers	75	0
Lasarov	405	0
Lavlee	641	0
Laznick Bldg	500	0
Laznick Comm Ctre	155.5	-1
Laznick Commercial Centres Bon	123	0
Laznick Ind Bldgs	356	-1.1
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond	137.5	-0.4
Lazniar Warrant B	138.5	-5.9
Lego	458	0
Leumi Mortgage Bond 154	0	0
Leumi R4	89	40.2
Levanthel	316	0
Levi	920	-10
Levi Bond A	133	-0.4
Levi Bond B	88	-0.8
Levi Warrant 2	85	0
Levinstein Bond A	81	0
Levinstein Warrant 2	389	0
Levinstein	1090	5
Liber	437	0
Lidan	1321	0
Lifshir 1	182.5	-2.4
Lifshir 5	895	-1
Lipid	744	-1.8
Lipid Bond 1	192.5	-0.7
Lightsage 1	480	2.3
LMS	255	0
Lipman	2667	-0.3
Lipski	2935	0
Lisaf Bond A	187	0.3
Lisaf Bond A	181	1.8
Lodan	215	-0.5
Lodzia 1	1358	0
Lodzia 4	4603	0
Luhot Gaff	52	0
Lubot Gaff Bond 1	136.5	0
Lumir	3353	0
Ma'ariv	2430	-5.8
Ma'ariv Bond A	130	-2
Maabarot	1221	-5
Magaff	1038	-0.8
Magdiel Bond A	134.5	-0.4
Magdiel Bond B	118	0
Magdiel Bond C	77	0.7
Magdiel Warrant 3	148.5	-1
Magil	1005	1
Magnen	158	0
Magnen Bond A	174	-0.3
Magnen Bond B	123	-0.8
Magnv	431	0
Magiv-Wat/Sint 1	18.2	9
Magma	59.5	-10.2
Magma Warrant 1	1.2	0
Magor 1	2518	0
Magor 5	9745	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	83.5	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	868	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	2.6	4
Mahal	340	0
Mahal Bond A	0	0
Mail	70	2.2
Malibu 1	892	0
Malibu 5	4980	0
Malibu Bond B	179.8	0.1
Malta	980	0
Man	130	-3.7
Man Bond A	228	0
Mantur	59	-2.5
Marathon	98	3.5
Marathon Insured	111.5	0
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 1	168	0.8
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 2	143.5	-0.7
Maritime Bank	1712	0.7
Maritime Bank Bond A	195.5	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	157.5	-0.4
Maritime Bank Warrant 6	0	0
Mashav	886	0
Mashbir	834	-0.2
Mashov	495	3.2
Mashov	106	0.5
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	8.3	-10
Matam	1309	0
Matav Warrant 1	450	23.8
Medima 1	1023	-7.3
Medisa 5	4171	0
Mazpak	898	1
Med. Hotels	97.5	1
Medtechnics	882	-2.5
Medtechnics Bond A	130.2	0
Medtechnics Bond B	90	-0.6
Medtechnics Warrant 2	244	0
Medtechnics Warrant 3	4.6	7
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	123.5	-0.4
Megaron	57.5	0
Meimad	448	-1.1
Meir Ezra	3420	-2.9
Meir Ezra Bond B	238	0
Melal	438	0
Mellaseron Bond B	0	0
Mellaseron Bond C	57.8	-1.4
Mellaseron Warrant 3	50	-13.2
Mendelson	259	0
Menolin	67.5	0
Menorah Ins. 5	6350	0
Mercazit	804	-9.3
Mercazit Warrant 2	72	2.1
Meshtar	196.5	3.1
Meytevit	463	0
Middle East Tube	382	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	105.5	-0.5
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	28	0
Millmor Bond A	153	0
Millomer Bond B	88	0
Millomer Warrant 2	289	0
Mimsar	140	4.9
Mind Line	470	-4.3
Mirvav	14259	0
Mirage	295	-0.8
Mirage Bond A	131.5	-0.4
Mirage Warrant 1	43	-4.4
Miromit	90	0
Mishmar	19	0
Mishmar Bond B	93	0
Mishor Bond 2	142	-0.4
Mishor Hshof	350	-5.9
Mitarani	134	3.1
Mitavch Shamir	2940	1.4
Mitavch Shamir	1090	5.5
MM Engineering	168.5	0
MM Engineering Bond A	117.5	-0.4
MM Engineering Warrant 2	0	0
Modgal	756	1.2
Modi'in	2.1	0
Mofet	199.8	-1.2
Mofet Convertible Bond AAA	278	0
Mofet	718	-8.5
More Plastic Ind.	317	0
Moshkovitz	188.5	0
Moshkovitz Warrant 2	0	0
MTI Computers	446	1.8
Mul-T-Lock	999	0
Multi Senior	308	0
Nachshon Fund	53.9	0
Naphtha	47.8	1.1
Naphtha Oil Exp.	24.7	0
Natour	551	0
NATSWA BOND A	98.9	-0.4
Navigator	286	0
Navigator Property	483	0.4
Nechushtan Bond B	78	0
Nechushtan Prop.	188.5	1.9
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	130.5	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	31	12.7
Negev Ceramics	202	0
Nehushtan 1	767	2.3
Nehushtan 5	3812	0
Neot Aviv	7472	0
Neous	507	0
Neve Arbel	94.5	0
Nevtin Hotels	417	0
Nevtol	758	0
Nia	209	2.9
Nikav	1210	0
Nisco	1594	0
Nissan	235	1.3
NMC	410	0
Noga	1593	0
Noga Income	87	0
Norden	11.4	0
Nudan Tech.	372	0
Norlolk	882	0
Norlolk Bond A	142.5	-0.3
Nur	63	0
NYP	975	0
Oceana	249	0
Oel Bond A	173	1.4
Oel Bond B	177	-0.3
Oel Bond C	88.8	-1.2
Oel Warrant 2	1080	-11.1
Oceana	861	-0.2
Olek	201	0
Olei Bra	6817	0
Olis	941	0
Ogdan	61	0
Ohaliav	774	0
Oil Fields	13	0
Ole-Dok	218	0
Omni	218	0
Omnitech	345	0
Ophir	483	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	105	0.5
Orasys	3498	1
Orcit	299	0
Orcit Bond A	155.5	0
Orda	4212	0.3
Orda Bond 1	188	0
Orev	459	0
Oriali	150	-2.5
Orlite	442	0
Orlite Bond A	90.5	-0.5
Orlite Warrant 2	111	20.7
Ormat Industries Bond D	120	-0.3
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	110	1.8
Orsal	292	-0.7
Ozer Hashilon	17800	-0.4
Oz	289	0
Oz atida	500	0.5
Packer Steel	5800	0
Paltough	474	-1
Pama	550	1.1
Pamas	2201	3.8
Pan Dor	274	0
Pardes	923	0
Pardes Bond A	100	2.8
Passport	3038	0
Paz Chen	394	5.1
PCB	1540	2.5
PCB Warrant 3	0	0
Pdan Investment	60	0
Peraq	130	0
Periclase	1256	0
Phoenix Ins. 5	18700	0
Pica Plast	548	-0.5
Pimora	1343	7.5
Pimora Bond A	137.5	0
Pitat	350	-0.6
Plason bond a	95.5	0
Plason warrant 1	330	0
Plasson	3740	0.3
Plasto Sac	683	-1
Plasto Sheck Bond A	86	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	113	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 3	8	22.4
Positiv Inv. Bond B	88.5	-0.6
Positiv Inv. Warrant 3	2600	3.8
Positiv Investments Bond A	133.5	0
Point of Sale	5020	0.6
Polak	335	0
Polgat A	230	0
Polgat B 4	850	-3.4
Polgat Bond B	169.5	0
Polygon	290	-4.1
Polygon Bond 2	208	-1
Posaz	288	1.5
Posaz Warrant 1	87	17.8
Port	77	0
Poseidon	106.7	-5.2
Prl Hasmak	23.6	-0.4
Prl Hasmak Bond A	45.8	-1.7
Pritzker

TASE drops despite CPI decrease

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks dropped, with Clal Electronics Industries declining after reporting a loss in the fourth quarter compared with a profit in the year-earlier period.

Clal Electronics, which has holdings in technology-based industries, declined 1.8 percent to NIS 547, pulling down the Maof Index of the 25 largest companies 0.31% to 308.40.

The company said it lost NIS 7.1 million, or 1.92 shekels a share, in the fourth quarter because of a one-time charge for the sale of a stake in Mennen Medical and lower revenue.

"The size of the loss was unexpected," said Ephraim Steinbruch, an analyst at Ofek Securities and Investments.

Clal Electronics didn't include some of its subsidiaries in its revenue statement as it "prepares itself to sell a large part of its holdings."

Executives at parent Clal Israel have said they want to sell smaller and unprofitable businesses to focus on investment banking, insurance, tourism and real estate.

The Tel Aviv-100 Index lost 0.22%, to 295.89. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 254.1m. of shares were traded, 6% more than the month's average.

Israel Discount Bank, the most active issue with NIS 34.9m. in transactions, gained 1.5% to 3.99. Israel's third-largest bank rose for the sixth day.

Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi, among the leading decliners, slipped from record highs. Bank Hapoalim, the largest bank, dropped 0.4% percent to 9.16 and Bank Leumi, the second-largest bank, shed 0.8% to 6.64.

Formula Systems lost 2.4% to 117.3. The software house said Sunday it agreed to purchase 800,000 new shares of Magic Software Enterprises for $4 million and got an option to buy 26.5% of the maker of programming software through the purchase of additional new shares, and gain control of the board.

Mashov Computers rose 0.4% to 4.97. Mashov currently controls Magic with a 44.2% stake.

Europe

UK stocks were mixed as declining drug and tobacco stocks offset a rally in telecommunications shares. Investors were also cautious before the Labor government presents its first full UK budget today.

"The budget is the worry," said Simon Davies, a fund manager at Berry Asset Management in London, which has £80 million invested in UK stocks. "We're set for two or three days of nervousness."

The UK's benchmark FT-SE 100 Index rose 2.8 points to 5785.1. A rally by mobile phone network operator Orange Plc, was canceled out by declining drug stocks, which fell after Goldman, Sachs & Co. cut their 1998 earnings estimates for four of the seven members of the FT-SE Pharmaceutical sub-index.

SmithKline Beecham Plc and Zeneca Group Plc were both also cut to "market perform" from "market outperform" by the brokerage. Together the two drug companies sliced nearly 12 points from the FT-SE 100 Index.

SmithKline slumped 20p to 734, Zeneca lost 99p to 2,600 and Medeva, which was reiterated "market outperform" but also saw its earnings estimates cut, fell half a penny to 161.5.

Meanwhile, mobile telephone network operator Orange Plc gained 27p to 408, adding 1.8 points to the FT-SE 100 index. British Aerospace Plc is poised to sell its 21% stake in Orange, according to *The Times* of London, and will raise as much as £1.5b. from the sale. Orange said Friday it is "not aware" of any talks regarding the sale of BAe's stake. British Aerospace said a sale of its stake is "premature." The shares gained 5p to 1,956.



Maof 308.40 ▼ 0.31%
Dow Jones 8719 ▲ 1.3%
FTSE 5785.1 ▲ 0.05%
Nikkei 16861.14 ▼ 1.17%

Asia

Japanese stocks fell for the third time in four days as companies cut their profit forecasts and the government released more statistics showing the economy is deteriorating.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., Sanwa Bank Ltd. and Fuji Bank Ltd. paced the decline.

Elsewhere, Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index rose as local interest rates fell to their lowest level in seven months. Stocks rose in Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, while falling in Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Australia.

In Japan, the dollar climbed against the yen and bonds rose, driving the benchmark yield to a new low. The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 199.00 points, or 1.17%, to 16,861.14, losing almost half of Friday's gains.

"We keep being bombarded with terrible numbers at both the micro and macro levels," said Celia Farnon, a director at Nomura International Plc.

Banks fell on concern the weak Japanese economy and Asia's economic and currency woes will result in more bad loans.

Currencies rose across Southeast Asia, paced by boosts of as much as 10.4 percent in the Indonesian rupiah and 4.5 percent in the Thai baht.

(Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) – Stocks rose sharply yesterday, with some measures bouncing right back into record territory after a minor setback on Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 116.33 points – or 1.3 percent – to 8,718.85, topping last Wednesday's record of 8,675.75 and moving above 8,700 for the first time.

Broad-market indicators also posted record-setting gains, with the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index setting a new high for the first time since late February.

With yesterday's advance, the Dow has already risen 10%, or about 800 points, in 1998, topping many forecasts for the entire year.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 3-to-2 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,809 up, 1,174 down and 513 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 546.82 million shares as of 4 p.m., down from 594.58 on Friday.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list rose 10.68 to 1,079.27, and the NYSE composite index rose 4.77 to 561.94, the fourth record close in five sessions for both measures.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 16.52 to 1,788.18, topping the February 26 record of 1,777.11. The small-company dominated American Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.33 at 718.44, moving within 3 points of a full recovery from October's selloff.

Yen declines on concern about Japan's economy

The dollar rose to a two-month high against the yen yesterday, reversing Friday's decline, amid renewed concern that Japan won't take the necessary steps to keep its economy from slipping into recession.

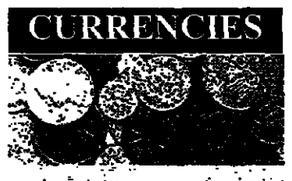
Japan's Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga said he isn't considering an extra budget to lift the economy, and senior ruling Liberal Democratic Party official Seiroku Kajiyama said credit research shows 10 or more Japanese banks may have liabilities exceeding assets.

"The market is looking at how bad the situation is in Japan and how much it needs to do to get back on track," said Fernando Medina, senior currency trader at Banco Atlantico in New York. "We should see the dollar easily break 130 yen this week."

The dollar rose as high as 129.80 yen, its highest since January 20, when it reached 129.82 yen. It was at 129.64 yen, up from 128.25 late Friday in London.

The US currency rose to 1.8211 marks, from 1.8180 Friday in London, after a report German wholesale prices were unchanged in February from January, reinforcing perceptions inflation remains benign and German interest rates won't rise. The dollar fell against the mark and yen Friday after allegations of sexual misconduct by US President Bill Clinton resurfaced. The allegations were brushed aside by traders, however, as they chose to focus on the vigor of the US economy compared with weakness in Germany and Japan.

Germany's Ifo economic research institute will release its closely watched index of Western German business confidence Thursday. While economists expect sentiment improved in February after deteriorating the month before, the economy is still seen as too weak to warrant the higher interest rates that would attract investors to mark deposits.



Dollar 3.5780 ▼ 0.31%
Basket 3.8206 ▼ 0.03%
Mark 1.9638 ▲ 0.32%
Sterling 5.9711 ▲ 1.34%

A report Friday showed US producer prices fell last month, a sign inflation is subdued though the economy continues to grow at a robust pace. That's good news for US stocks and bonds, and the dollars needed to buy them.

In Japan Friday, the government said gross domestic product shrank 0.2% in the October to December quarter from the previous three months, or 0.7% from a year earlier. Economists polled by Bloomberg expect the Japanese economy will turn in its worst performance in 25 years for the fiscal year ending March 31.

Friday's report undermined Japanese stocks yesterday, pushing the benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index down 1.17%, or 199 points, to 16,861.14. Falling stocks hurt the Japanese currency as investors selling shares convert their yen proceeds to other currencies.

"The dollar's direction will likely be decided by how stocks perform this week," said Hirokazu Note, chief trader at Sumitomo Bank Ltd. "As stocks continue to fall, the yen weakens."

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday named Masaru Hayami, a 72-year-old former executive at the Bank of Japan, as the central bank's new governor. He replaces Yasuo Matsushita, who resigned last week to take responsibility for charges of corruption amongst bank officials. (Bloomberg)

Oil falls on concern that producers won't curb output

Oil

Crude oil fell 2 percent yesterday to a four-year low on disappointment that OPEC, which supplies a third of the world's oil, has not yet acted to reduce oversupply on the world market.

"There's still no sign of a rescue effort from OPEC so the market continues to drift lower," said Tom Bentz, an energy trader at Cresvale International LLC in New York. "People are disappointed OPEC has not come forward to do anything."

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries last week rescheduled a committee meeting planned for yesterday until the end of the month to allow time for more of the group's 11 members to attend.

Crude oil for April delivery fell as much as 28 cents to $13.78 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest for a contract closest to expiration since reaching $13.75 a barrel on December 20 ,1993.

Precious Metals

Palladium and platinum rose yesterday as a halt in shipments from Russia left little metal available for immediate delivery. The cost of borrowing palladium for one month rose to an annualized rate of as much as 28 percent, compared to 23% on Friday and 10% a week ago, a sign that traders who need metal now are struggling to find lenders. Consumers are reluctant to sell metal because of concern of a repeat of last year's shortage, which followed a six-and-a-half month hiatus in Russian exports, traders said. Spot palladium rose $4 to $277.50 an ounce in London inter-bank trading. Spot platinum, rose $7, to $398.00 an ounce.

Gold fell amid fading demand in Asia and increasing supplies of the precious metal. Sagging consumption in much of East Asia may be enough to see gold consumption from jewelers and industrial users drop in 1998, the first such fall in five years, according to a report from investment bank JP Morgan. Falling currencies and slower economic growth are reducing purchasing power in the region. Meanwhile, supplies of scrap gold are increasing.



Gold $294.15 ▼ 1.2%
Crude Oil $12.53 ▼ 0.23%
CRB 225.43 ▼ 0.55%

Others

Coffee climbed amid concern dry weather earlier in the current crop year will reduce the Ivory Coast's 1997-98 harvest to around 3.3 million 60-kilogram bags from 5 million bags in the previous year, F.O. Licht, a German commodities research company, said in a report last week, citing local industry sources. Falling Ivory Coast output comes at a time when supplies of London-traded robusta coffee are lean as Vietnamese growers withhold their 1997-98 harvest amid expectations for higher prices. Coffee for May delivery rose $12, to $1,687 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Cocoa fell yesterday. The International Cocoa Organization said last week that it expects cocoa supplies to exceed demand in the crop year beginning October 1. Global cocoa production is seen at 2.86 million tons in 1998-99 compared to consumption of 2.81 million tons, said the ICCO, which represents consumers and producers of cocoa. Cocoa for May delivery fell £10 ($16.68) to £1,071 a metric ton on Liffe.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds rise as yen decline boosts allure

US bonds rose as the US currency rallied against the yen, making dollar-denominated securities more attractive to international investors.

"Our dollar's doing better and there was a report that the Japanese economy may have had negative growth – all that added up to help the market," said Marcello Frustaci, a government securities trader at Daiwa Securities America Inc.

The dollar rose almost 1.3 percent to about 129.50 yen amid dimming expectations Japan's economy will rebound soon. A stronger dollar boosts the returns on Treasuries for investors converting proceeds into weaker currencies.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 19/32, or $5.94 per $1,000 bond, pushing its yield down 4 basis points to 5.85%. Two-year note yields fell 1 basis point to 5.46%.

Bonds fell for the first time in seven days on Friday as traders were reluctant to buy with yields at three-week lows, even after a report showed a drop in producer prices.

Still, expectations that inflation will remain low has investors optimistic about fixed-income securities. Speculation that foreign investors were purchasing 10-year notes after Friday's rise in yields helped to boost prices, traders said.

The 10-year note was the best performer, with its yield dropping 4 basis points to 5.54%. The strong demand for the note can also be seen in the repo market, where securities companies are willing to lend money overnight at a rate of 2.25%, in return for borrowing the 10-year note, according to Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter & Co.

Investors get their next inflation news later this week. The consumer price index, set for release Thursday, is likely to show prices rose 0.1% in February after registering no change during January, analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News forecast. For all of 1997, the CPI rose 1.7%, the smallest increase since 1986.

"If inflation remains under control, there is no reason bonds can't do better," said Bill Gamba, head of fixed-income trading at Cowen & Co.

Some investors said they were optimistic for lower bond yields in the weeks and months ahead amid evidence the economy is growing without driving up inflation rates. Inflation erodes the value of fixed-income securities.

"We're still very bullish on Treasuries," said Kieron Nutbrown, a portfolio manager who helps oversee $2 billion of global bonds at LGT Asset Management. "We have been buying whenever yields have got to 6%."

(Bloomberg)



US 30-year T-bill yield
5.85 ▼ 0.04

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	LAST	CHANGE*
Tenneco	43.375	+0.125
Tenet Health	38.1875	-0.25
Teradyne	38.5	+1.5
Tesoro Pet	16.8125	+0.5625
Texaco	57.3125	-0.5625
Texas Instrments	54.125	-0.0625
Texas Utilities	40.625	+0.375
Textron	73.9375	+2.1875
Thiokol	48.25	-0.25
Thomas & Betts	56.875	+0.3125
ThreeCom	34.9375	+0
Time Warner	70.875	-0.0625
Times-Mirror	82.75	+0.375
Timken	34.6875	+0.0625
Torchmark	46.25	+0.1875
Tosco Corp	35.75	-0.0625
Toys R Us	28.3125	+0.25
Transamerica	125.188	+2.875
Transco Energy	62.625	-0.0625
Travellers Grp	80.25	-0.125
Tribune	66.125	+0.25
Triton Energy	32.8125	-0.625
TWA	13.75	-0.5
Tyco Labs	56	+1.625
Tyler	7.5	-0.1875
UAL Corp	92.625	+2.875
USG Corp	55	-0.125
UST Inc	34.3125	-0.125
USX Marathon	36.375	+0.875
USX-US Steel	39.125	+0.5625
Unamar Dlam	34.4375	+0.0625
Unicom Corp	33.4375	+0.625
Unilever PLC	37.9375	-0.125
Unilever NV	87.3125	-0.4375
Union Camp	51.1875	+0.4375
Union Carbide	46.0625	-0.5625
Union Electric	-	-
Union Pacific	53.0625	+1.3125
Unisys Corp	20	+0
USAIR Group	76	+1.625
USFEG Corp	25.1875	+0
US Home	46	+0.4375
US Surgical	34.8125	+0.0625
US Trust	64.1875	+0.1875
US West	55.375	+1
Unisys Tech	90.9375	+0.6875
Unocal Corp	38.25	+0.3125
VF Corp	48.5	+2.0625
Valero Energy	34.8125	-0.1875
Varian Assoc	55.5	-0.0625
Viacom Inc	48.75	+0.6875
Vishay	20.625	-0.3125
Vulcan Materials	108.188	+1.5625
Wachovia	82.9375	+2
Walgreen	36.25	-0.3125
Wal-Mart Stores	51.5	+0.125
Warner-Lambert	160	+1.5
Wash Gas Light	28.25	+0.1875
Washington Mutu	71.75	+1.375
Washington Post	521.125	+5.8125
Waste Mgment Inc	31.3125	+0.75
Wellons-Johnson	27.9375	+0.4375
Wells Markets	35.4375	-0.125
Wells Fargo	325.625	+6.125
Wendy's Intl	21.4375	+0.0625
Westvaco	31.9375	+0.3125
Weyermsuser	59.25	+1.625
Whirlpool	68.5625	+0.25
Whitman	20	+1.25
Williams Co	32.5625	-0.9375
Winn Dixie Stos	58	+0.5
Woolworth	25.1875	+0.9375
World Comm	41.875	+2.6875
Worthington Ind	17.5625	-0.4375
Wrigley	61.125	+0
Xerox	95	+0.5
Yellow Freight	20.8125	+0.03125
Zenith Electron	7	+0
Zero Co	26.6875	+0.375

LONDON

Allied Domecq	578	-1
BAT Inds	633	-3.5
BT	611.5	-7
BTR	193.5	-3
Barclays	1797	+44
Bass	1069	-13
Boots	898.5	-6.5
British Airways	596	+23
Diageo	668	-10
General Electric	426.25	+4.25
Glaxo	1657	+8
Halifax	970	-2
HSBC (75p shs)	1885	+25
ICI	1102	-6.5
Land Securities	1080	-20.5
Lloyds Bank	919	+4.5
Marks & Spencer	570.5	+0
NatWest Bank	1051	-3
Prudential	872	-12
Reuters	632.5	-4.5
Sainsbury	492	-1
Shell Transport	427	+2
Unilever	556	-3.5

PARIS

Accor	1400	-10
Air Liquide	1085	-6
Alcatel Alsthom	932	+50
Euro Disney	9.95	-0.1
Michelin B	408.9	+16.9
Moulinex	156.6	-4.4
Paribas	581	+16
Pernod Ricard	415.2	+11.1
Peugeot	925	+32
Saint Gobain	868	+1

FRANKFURT

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bayer	78.45	+0.25
Daimler-Benz	161.5	+0.9
Lufthansa	38.7	-0.9
Mannesmann	1350	+30
Metallgesellschaft	41.5	+1.75
Volkswagen	1291	+10.1

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 16-MAR-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	3.8206	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.578	0
British Pound (1)	5.5711	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	1.9638	0
French Franc (1)	0.5857	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.759	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4176	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5335	0
Italian Lira (1000)	1.9944	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.045	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8718.86	+116.33
DJ Transport	3823.57	+75.12
DJ Utils	276.71	+1.72
DJ Comp	2845.59	+41.14
NYSE Industr	693.74	+4.33
NYSE Transport	510.74	+7.21
NYSE Comp	561.94	+4.77
S&P 100	513.57	+5.11
S&P Spot Index	1079.27	+10.68

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5785.1	+2.8
Tokyo Nikkei	16861.1	-199
Singapore all-share Index	423.08	-0.11
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	11181.5	+124.5
Israel Indstr	233.13	+0.17
Paris CAC 40	3698.28	+56.03
DAX	4889.65	+50.05
Madrid	920.61	+9.05
Swiss Market Index	7251.2	-66.8
Sydney	2729.9	-1.7
Milan	1366.16	+20.58

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6585	-0.0027
Jun.future (CME)	1.6616	-0
D-mark: spot	1.8189	+0.0044
Jun.future (CME)	0.5527	-0.0004
S-franc: spot	1.4802	+0.0065
Jun.future (CME)	0.6833	+0.0017
Yen: spot	129.65	+1.83
Jun.future (CME)	0.007807	-9.2e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.413	+0.0005
Jun.future (CME)	0.7082	-0.0002
AusDlr: spot	0.6567	-0.0034
Jun.future (CME)	0.6704	-0.0078
F-franc: spot	5.098	+0.005
It Lira: spot	1792.5	+2
Ntg: spot	2.0501	+0.0019
AuSchlg: spot	12.8108	+0.0103
Rand: spot	4.971	+0.0025
ECU: spot	1.0902	-0.0016

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1618	-26
Coffee (May) (CEC)	150.05	+3.55
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	336	-4
Soybean (May) (CBOT)	654.5	-1
Sugar (May) (CEC)	9.44	+0.04
Orange juice (May)(CEC)	110	-0.05
Bonds Jun.future	121.406	+0.46875
S and P Jun.future	1091.2	+10.6

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	1072	-9
Coffee (May) (LCE)	1735	+60
Brent crude oil (Apr)(IPE)	1231	-44

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.12	-0.04

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Apr)	295.1	-0.6
Silver (May)	6.095	-0.04
Platinum (Apr)	402.5	+10.4
Palladium (Jun)	270	+9
High-grade copper (May)	0.831	+0.003

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	294.15	-1
Gold PM fix	294.2	-0.35
Silver fix	611 7	-11.8

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 16-MAR-98)

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.98)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.710	4.710	4.910
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.540	5.530	5.590
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.020	2.110	2.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (16.3.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.7840	3.8451	—	—	3.8206
U.S. dollar	3.5434	3.6006	3.48	3.66	3.5780
German mark	1.9445	1.9760	1.91	2.01	1.9638
Pound sterling	5.9170	6.0125	5.81	6.10	5.9711
French franc	0.5798	0.5892	0.56	0.60	0.5857
Japanese yen (100)	2.7368	2.7810	2.68	2.82	2.7598
Dutch florin	1.7251	1.7530	1.69	1.78	1.7423
Swiss franc	2.3934	2.4321	2.35	2.47	2.4176
Swedish krona	0.4454	0.4526	0.43	0.46	0.4506
Norwegian krone	0.4667	0.4743	0.45	0.49	0.4712
Danish krone	0.5102	0.5185	0.50	0.53	0.5151
Finnish mark	0.6407	0.6511	0.62	0.67	0.6471
Canadian dollar	2.5054	2.5459	2.46	2.59	2.5335
Australian dollar	2.3706	2.4089	2.32	2.45	2.3967
S. African rand	0.7124	0.7239	0.64	0.73	0.7195
Belgian franc (10)	0.9424	0.9577	0.92	0.97	0.9517
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7642	2.8088	2.71	2.85	2.7913
Italian lira (1000)	1.9746	2.0065	1.94	2.04	1.9944
Jordanian dinar	4.9802	5.0606	4.91	5.25	5.0450
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0900	1.00	1.09	1.0645
ECU	3.8572	3.9195	—	—	3.8957
Irish punt	4.8914	4.9703	4.80	5.04	4.9326
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2931	2.3301	2.25	2.37	2.3155

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Jerusalem: Super Pharm, Malha mall, 679-3260; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
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Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
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FIRE	102
FIRST AID	101

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Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 9451333	
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9642333	
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 6920333	
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French connection could kill off United's season

By MIKE COLLETT

LONDON (Reuters) – Five Frenchmen combined to derail Manchester United's progress to the English title on Saturday. The fear for United fans is that the French champions themselves will shunt them into the sidings as far as the European Cup is concerned tomorrow.

Monaco come to Old Trafford tomorrow for a European Cup quarter-final with United at their lowest ebb of the season.

Monaco manager Jean Tigana watched United crash 1-0 at home to Arsenal on Saturday — leaving five minutes before the end with a smile on his face.

Whether he will still be smiling when he leaves Old Trafford tomorrow is debatable, but Monaco will probably not have a better chance of winning there.

On Saturday Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger and French players Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira, and substitutes Nicholas Anelka and Remi Garde all played their part in securing Arsenal's win at Old Trafford courtesy of Dutchman Marc Overmars 80th minute winner.

Petit, who played for Monaco before joining Arsenal and was outstanding in Arsenal's victory said afterwards: "Everyone at Arsenal wants United to win tomorrow and still have the distraction of the European Cup while we both fight it out for the league title.

"But it won't be easy for United against Monaco. I felt today that they were very tired physically. They will have to be very careful, especially in defence.

"Monaco will play a counter-attacking game tomorrow and will have to watch out for David Trezeguet who is back from injury and scored against Auxerre the other day."

Arsenal manager Wenger, a former boss of Monaco, was naturally delighted with his team's performance and concentrated on that rather than analyze United's chances of success against his old club.

"I have always believed we can win the title, and now we have our own fate back in our own hands," he said.

"We are six points behind United with three matches in hand.

United suffered a big blow today by losing, and I hope we can capitalize on that."

United not only lost vital points but their talismanic captain and goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel who tore a hamstring in the dying minutes trying to catch Dennis Bergkamp after joining the attack at a United corner.

He will not only miss tomorrow's match against Monaco, but will also be out for the next five weeks.

United's injury list is lengthening with Gary Pallister out of the tie, and Ronny Johnsen, Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt and Phil Neville all doubtful.

For so long this season it seemed United had the title wrapped up – and would breeze into the European Cup semifinals to take on the might of Juventus, Dynamo Kiev, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich or Borussia Dortmund.

The odds of that happening have increased – and although United could bounce back from Saturday's disappointment to win tomorrow, their form has deserted them and their confidence is low.

Arsenal on the other hand, are even beginning to believe they could emulate their golden 1970-71 season by capturing a second League and Cup double.

That dream may only be a short-lived one as they face in-form West Ham at Upton Park in an FA Cup sixth round replay today.

If they lose that of course, dreams of the double will be short-lived. But if they win then their season could end as remarkably as United's – but for very different reasons.

Outraged Newcastle fans call for directors' heads

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) – Newcastle United supporters have called on former chairman Sir John Hall to come out of retirement after a barrage of disturbing allegations about his successor, Freddie Shepherd and son Douglas Hall.

Weekend reports in the *News of the World* and other newspapers alleged the pair – both directors of the club – had ridiculed United fans over the price of replica shirts, described Newcastle women as "dogs" and had sold striker Andy Cole to Manchester United in 1995 knowing he was suffering from a serious injury.

The two men were also alleged to have ridiculed Kevin Keegan, the club's former manager, Alan Shearer, their star striker and said that fans identify with winger Keith Gillespie because he "liked to drink and get into trouble." Manchester United have insisted they were not duped over the £7.0 million sale of Cole – then a British transfer record – and dismissed the story as "total nonsense." United's assistant secretary Ken Ramsden said yesterday: "We knew Andy Cole's medical history and he was given stringent checks."

The revelations have caused outrage amongst fans' representatives on Tyneside and slashed the club's stock market valuation by around £17 million before shares later rallied.

"Sir John Hall should come back to the club as a temporary measure," said John Regan of the Independent Newcastle United Supporters Association.

"If the allegations are correct, the only recourse for Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall are to resign from the board of Newcastle United.

"I believe the allegations are as serious as that. I'm not on any moral crusade. Those issues are for the men and their families to sort out. What worries me more is the actual contempt shown for the fans in the article.

"We all know we're exploited with the price of replica shirts, but we don't need that exploitation rubbed in our faces in the national press."

It was Sir John who famously took control of the club six years ago, staving off relegation to the old Third Division with the appointment of Kevin Keegan as team manager, restructuring an estimated £5 million debt and investing a further £60 million on new players.

He formally stood down as chairman last December, but retains the honorary title of President.

Juve held, Kaiserslautern heading for German title

LONDON (Reuters) – Juventus were held to a 2-2 draw by 10-man Napoli, the bottom club in Italy at the weekend as most European leagues approached the final straight in the race to the title. Kaiserslautern looked increasingly likely to be the first promoted club to win the Bundesliga since the league was created in 1963.

Real Madrid will need something special to stop Barcelona winning the Spanish league after the Catalan club beat Valladolid 2-1 to go seven points clear.

Ajax Amsterdam have all but wrapped up the Dutch championship but the Italian, English, Scottish and French leagues are still wide open.

SPAIN – Luis Figo's goal three minutes into injury time gave Barcelona a controversial 2-1 victory at Valladolid and extended their lead at the top to seven points.

Barcelona have 58 points from 28 matches. Real Madrid are second with 51 points and have played one game more.

Real Madrid could only draw 2-2 with Racing Santander on Saturday. Barcelona have now gone 12 league and Cup matches without defeat.

Three minutes of injury time had elapsed when Barcelona goalkeeper Ruud Hesp booted the ball upfield.

Giovanni and then Rivaldo headed forward and a miscued shot from Dragan Ciric spun to the feet of Figo, who shot low and hard to the right of Cesar.

Valladolid players protested vehemently that Rivaldo had fouled their Brazilian defender Julio Cesar Santos while going for the ball but the goal stood. Chema also got shown the red card for dissent.

Celta Vigo wasted a chance to close the gap on Barcelona and Real when they were held to a 0-0 draw by struggling Tenerife.

They stay in third place with 48 points.

GERMANY – Runaway leaders Kaiserslautern moved nine points clear of crisis-hit Bayern Munich with a 1-0 win over TSV 1860 Munich, and Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni admitted his side had no chance of retaining the title.

Bayern, who had lost their last three league matches, could only manage a goalless draw at home to lowly VfL Bochum which put them on 48 points compared to Kaiserslautern's 57.

Kaiserslautern moved in front just before halftime thanks to a brilliant goal by Brazilian Ratinho.

Bayer Leverkusen extended their unbeaten run to 19 matches with a 1-1 draw at MSV Duisburg and are only two points behind Bayern and in contention for the second berth in next season's Champions' League.

ITALY – Bottom club Napoli threw Italy's title race wide open when they held leaders Juventus to a shock 2-2 draw.

The surprise for Juventus coincided with title contenders Lazio and Inter Milan both steamrollering to 4-0 victories over Sampdoria and Atalanta Bergamo. Ronaldo was among the Inter scorers.

Juventus were heading towards a hard-fought home win when, with seconds left, striker Igor Protti stunned 44,500 fans in Turin with a goal on the counter-attack.

The draw cut Juve's lead over Lazio to just two points with nine matches left, with Inter a further point back. Juve coach Marcello Lippi said he might be losing his touch after his players ignored warnings not to be complacent against Napoli.

Udinese are fourth on 46 points, seven behind Juventus after beating Piacenza 2-0 but Parma missed their chance to join the title-chasing pack when they lost 2-0 at struggling Empoli.

NETHERLANDS – Ajax scored six goals to beat bottom side Volendam 6-1 and continue their inexorable march towards a 27th league title.

With 10 matches to play, Ajax are 12 points clear of second-placed PSV Eindhoven. Reigning champions PSV beat RKC Waalwijk 1-0.

The victory was a boost for the Amsterdam team ahead of the UEFA Cup quarter-final return match away against Spartak Moscow.

Ajax lost the first leg at home 3-1.

The match also saw the return of striker Jari Litmanen, who played the last 20 minutes of the match after a long absence due to injury.

FRANCE – Leaders Metz beat Montpellier 1-0 and Monaco virtually lost all chance of retaining the title after a 3-1 defeat at Auxerre on Friday.

Metz defender Cyril Serredszum dived to head home a corner from the right by French international Robert Pires seven minutes from time.

The home side had the ball in the Metz net in injury time but the equaliser was disallowed for obstruction on goalkeeper Lionel Letizi.

Metz, with 56 points, are one point ahead of RC Lens, who beat Paris St Germain 3-0. Olympique Marseille beat Bastia 1-0 and are two points further back while fourth-placed Monaco are seven adrift of Metz.

AJ Auxerre striker Steve Marlet scored once in each half as Monaco, who play Manchester United on Wednesday, fell 3-0 behind after 65 minutes.

SPORTS *in brief*

Israel rugby team to play Swiss

The national rugby team will play Switzerland the first game of the FIRA (European League) "silver" division at Wingate on March 28 at 19:30.

The other three teams in Israel's division are Yugoslavia, Lithuania and Latvia. Israel will play them all during the course of the year.

In the only game played at the weekend in the local rugby league, Hapoel Netanya thrashed ASA Jerusalem 43-5 at the Tel Aviv Sportek.

Netanya did well to score seven tries, by lock Avital Eliasov (2), wing Moshe Cohen, scrum-half Oren beck, fly-half Darren Pincus, center James Whitmore and flank Julian Shapiro. Jerusalem replied with a try by lock Erez Tal.

On Friday afternoon, a Tel Aviv invitation XV beat the IDF team 21-12. In an under-16 game yesterday, Tivon beat hosts Hadera 24-14.

Joel Gordin

Caesarea golf

This week's competition at Caesarea golf club was a better ball stableford Nassau tournament.

First place, the team with the best game, went to Jeff Strubel and Yehuda Zilberbuch who had a total of 45 points. Zilberbuch's own triumph was a gross 79, breaking 80 for his first time.

In second place, with the best best back nine, were Harold Stutzen and Ruth Chet with 23 points and Mendi Kliger and Zvi Joseph took third place with 26 points on the front nine. *Heather Chait*

Lee quits as chairman of struggling Man. City

LONDON (Reuters) – Francis Lee resigned as chairman of struggling English first division club Manchester City yesterday.

Lee, who has also quit as a director, will be replaced by another director, David Bernstein, at the helm of the club currently languishing in the relegation zone.

Last month Joe Royle took over from Frank Clark as manager at the club but Lee has remained under fierce criticism from the fans as the team continued to flounder on the pitch.

Calcavecchia wins despite cut finger

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (Reuters) – Mark Calcavecchia put his cut finger back together with glue and a bandage before taking a grip on victory at the $1.8 million Honda Classic Sunday.

Calcavecchia was cutting some threads off his pants before the final round when his scissors slipped and sliced through his left index finger.

"I was panicking but the super glue must have done the trick," said Calcavecchia, who shot a flawless seven-under-par 65 for a three-shot win in perfect conditions on the Heron Bay TPC course.

He was tied for the lead with Vijay Singh after 11 holes, but birdied five of the final seven holes to finish at 18-under 270.

Iranians back in France after 22 years

RENNES (Reuters) – Iran, who last played in France 22 years ago, are the first of the 1998 World Cup finalists to go on a practice tour of the country ahead of the June-July tournament.

The Iranians, who drew 1-1 with France in Toulouse in 1976, will play three games against French first division sides during their tour, starting with En Avant Guingamp today.

An Iranian embassy official said Iran had chosen to spend most of their tour in Brittany because of the good economic relations the middle eastern country has with the region.

Iran, in the World Cup finals for the first time since 1978 in Argentina, are scheduled to play Nantes on Friday and then travel south for a match against Montpellier on Sunday.

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MITSUBISHI SUPER LANCER, 1996, station, 1.6, automatic, power steering, 30,000 km., 1st owner, PBS, air'bags. Will sacrifice for quick deal. Tel. 02-993-1580 (NS). 050-726980 (NS). [15129]

VEHICLES – Tel Aviv

PASSPORT

CITROEN XANTIA 1995, 1.8 Liters, 19,900 km., all powers, automatic, air conditioning, alarm, CD player, like new,$9,900. Tel. 09-832-1760. [791950]

BMW 318TI, Dec., 1995, 34,000 km., excellent condition, diplomatic car, green metallic, ABS, A/C, air bags, radio-cassette, etc. Tel. 09-950-0686 (after 4 p.m.). [791983]

VEHICLES – Sharon Area

PASSPORT

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VEHICLES – Sharon Area

1992 GOLF, 3 door, red, 1.8, power-steering, air conditioning, tourist only, very nice car, 53,000 km., $5,900, quick sale, radio-tape. Colin. Tel. 09-742-9517, 052-423327. [790705]

1997 VOLKSWAGEN POLO, automatic, 7200, power steering / windows, ABS brakes, air conditioning, central locking, alarm, immobilizer, airbags, stereo, CD changer, excellent condition.
Tel. 09-957-4912. [791717]

1993 - 4 BMW 3251, metallic maroon, first hand, manual, air conditioned, power steering, sun roof, outstanding car. Available April/ Colin, Tel. 09-749-29517, Tel. 052-423-327. [791971]

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PASSPORT

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Murdoch's National Pastime

Baseball waits with baited breath as Rupert Murdoch takes control of the Dodgers

MY CALL
By JIM LITKE

On Thursday, Rupert Murdoch's Fox Group formally takes control of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

You can call Murdoch all sorts of things — and his competitors usually do — but irrelevant is never one of them.

He jumped into pro football four years ago and changed the economics of that sport so profoundly that some owners are still trying to figure out how to spend their windfall. Other owners, though, are still struggling with their bills.

Last season, in the last year of a TV deal valued at $1.1 billion annually, the salary cap rose $700,000 per NFL team. Next season, in the first year of a new deal valued at $2.2b annually, the salary cap should rise about $7m per team to $50m.

No wonder not everybody in Major League Baseball wants to roll out the welcome carpet. Owners who have spoken out against Murdoch, such as San Francisco's Peter Magowan and San Diego's John Moores, have specific gripes. Both will be in the National League West with Los Angeles, scared to death they will have to match its payroll.

But economist Andrew Zimbalist, a Smith College professor who wrote *Baseball and Billions*, says owners have good reason to fear their newest business partner, even though Murdoch's $300m-plus purchase of the Dodgers drives up the value of everybody's holdings.

"Here is someone with no demonstrated understanding of the game. Someone who wasn't even in a culture where baseball was dominant, somebody who has a background of duplicity," he told *The Orange County Register*.

"Here is a person who will have a lot of control. It's not the individual I'd want to give that control to."

There's more. Mention of Murdoch's name has a strange effect on even the most powerful people. Some very big media companies have already bought their way into baseball without sending shivers down everyone's spines. The Walt Disney Co. owns the Anaheim Angels. The Tribune Co. has owned the Chicago Cubs for nearly two decades. The Atlanta Braves, once Ted Turner's summertime diversion, have now been folded into the vast Time Warner Inc., empire.

And while Turner has proven himself Murdoch's equal — both as shameless promoter and ruthless media magnate — his membership in the owners' club inspires little scorn and even less concern.

Not so with Murdoch. There are already jokes about likely Dodgers tie-ins with Fox shows — *The X-Files* delves into batting slumps one week; *The Simpsons* take a crack at it the week after that.

Considering how deeply Fox is already invested in baseball — it paid $575m for a five-year national deal and is part of local cable deals involving almost two dozen clubs — there is also considerable speculation about why Murdoch is buying the Dodgers.

Some people think it's part of a long-range plan to lower programming costs, others that it's a way to sell satellite TV subscriptions in Asia and South America — far-flung markets in which the Dodgers have fans. Still other people worry about less grandiose schemes. They see Murdoch with the ability to manipulate so many teams at once — threatening to adjust local TV revenue packages up and down — that he could arrange any trade almost any time the Dodgers want.

The bottom line is that we'll all have to wait and see. Already lost in the bargain is something people should have realized when Peter O'Malley put the Dodgers on the auction block in the first place. (AP)

Buzzer-beater lifts Heat past Magic

ORLANDO (AP) — Voshon Lenard hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer and Miami held Orlando without a field goal in the final 7:45 Sunday to give the Heat a 79-76 victory over the Magic.

The game ended amid confusion when the officials appeared to wave off the winning basket. They huddled, though, and concluded that Miami had inbounded the ball with 1.1 seconds left and Lenard, who dribbled before setting himself for a wide-open 26-footer, got the shot off before time expired.

Tim Hardaway led the Heat with 22 points, while Alonzo Mourning had 18 points and 10 rebounds. Lenard, who made two free throws to make it 76-76 with 7.7 seconds left, finished with 15 for the Heat, which won for the 13th time in 14 games.

Orlando got 30 points from Nick Anderson, but didn't score from the field after Bo Outlaw's tip-in with 7:46 to go.

Jazz 109, Pistons 98

Karl Malone scored 28 points and added nine rebounds as visiting Utah won its 10th straight game.

Jeff Hornacek added 22 points as the Jazz won their eighth consecutive road game.

Grant Hill led Detroit with 29 points, but 10 came after the game was out of reach, and he had only one assist. Brian Williams added 24 points and 14 rebounds, but guards Lindsey Hunter and Joe Dumars combined for just 11 on 4-of-20 shooting.

Leading 46-41 at halftime, the Jazz used a 17-4 surge to open a 72-57 lead. Malone scored eight points in the spurt and had 12 in the quarter as Utah led 77-66 after three.

Lakers 119, Grizzlies 110

Robert Horry scored 13 of his season-high 23 points in the second half as visiting Los Angeles won its sixth straight.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 24 points and Rick Fox chipped in with 20 as the Lakers moved to within 3 games of the idle first-place Seattle SuperSonics in the Pacific Division standings. Horry, coming off a season high 14 rebounds in Thursday's win over the L.A. Clippers, also pulled down a team-high 13 against Vancouver.

Nick Van Exel, playing his first game after missing a month with a knee injury, sparked a 15-4 run at the start of the fourth quarter, as the Lakers eventually opened up a 105-92 lead.

Center Bryant Reeves led the Grizzlies — loser for the 18th time in 20 games — for the third time in four games with 24 points. Shareef Abdur-Rahim chipped in with 23.

Hawks 93, Celtics 77

Dikembe Mutombo had 21 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks as for host Atlanta.

Mutombo scored 10 of his 14 first-half points in the opening quarter and the Hawks built a 51-34 halftime lead on a 3-pointer by Tyrone Corbin with 17 seconds left.

Alan Henderson and Corbin added 17 points each as Atlanta won its fifth in six games and moved to 7-0 on Sundays.

Antoine Walker led Boston with 16 points and Ron Mercer had 14.

Pacers 91, Knicks 86

Mark Jackson scored half of his season-high 28 points in the fourth quarter as Indiana notched a road win.

Jackson, a former Knick, was 5-for-5 from the field and 4-for-4 from the foul line in the final quarter.

Rik Smits added 22 points and 11 rebounds and Reggie Miller had 17 points as the Pacers won on the road for the 21st time this season, guaranteeing a winning record away from home for the first time in the franchise's NBA history.

Suns 100, Mavericks 90

Jason Kidd got his 18th career triple-double with 20 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists as Phoenix clinched a playoff berth with a home win.

Antonio McDyess and Danny Manning each scored 17 points for Phoenix, which won its fourth straight game to reach the playoffs for the 10th consecutive season.

Michael Finley led Dallas with 20 points and 12 assists.

Raptors 100 Warriors 98 (OT)

Doug Christie scored 24 points for Toronto, which overcame an 11-point deficit in the final 3:42 of regulation and went on to beat the hosts in overtime.

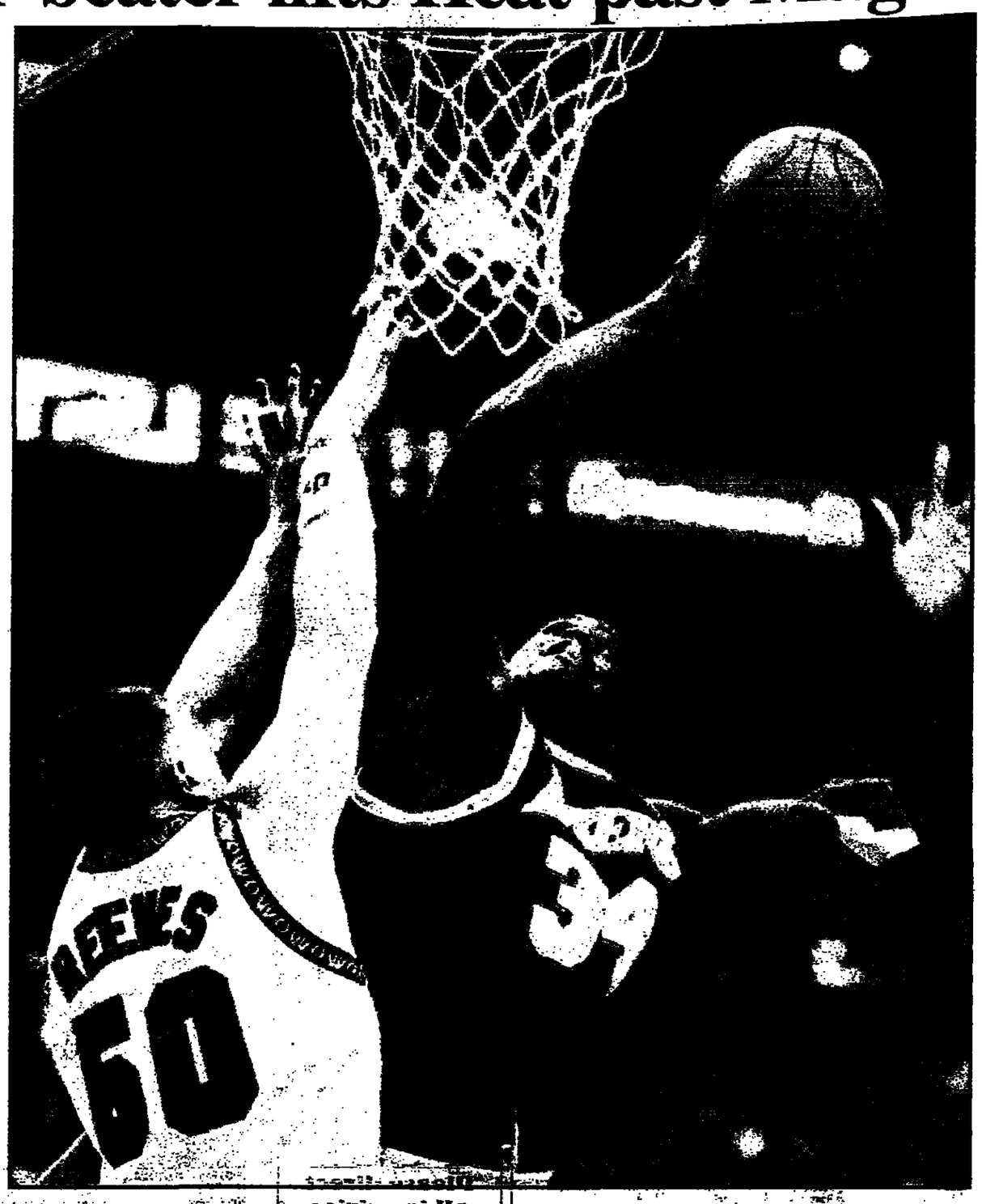
Toronto swept the two-game season series from Golden State and ended a six-game losing streak.

Marcus Camby had 23 points and 16 rebounds for Toronto, while Clarence Weatherspoon had 18 points and 20 rebounds for Golden State.

Trail Blazers 103, Clippers 92

Arvydas Sabonis had 28 points and 15 rebounds to rally Portland to a home victory.

Isaiah Rider added 26 points for the Blazers, who have beaten the Clippers 12 straight times in Portland.



ANOTHER COUNTRY HEARD FROM – Lakers' Shaquille O'Neill dunks past Grizzlies Bryant "Big Country" Reeves. Los Angeles won 119-110. (Reuters)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	45	20	.692	—
New York	35	29	.547	9½
New Jersey	34	31	.523	11
Washington	34	31	.523	11
Orlando	32	32	.500	12½
Boston	29	35	.453	15½
Philadelphia	24	39	.381	20
Central Division				
Chicago	47	17	.734	—
Indiana	45	19	.703	2
Charlotte	40	24	.625	7
Atlanta	38	25	.603	8½
Cleveland	34	30	.531	13
Milwaukee	29	34	.460	17½
Detroit	29	35	.453	18
Toronto	14	49	.222	32½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Utah	47	16	.746	—
x-San Antonio	43	21	.672	4½
Houston	33	31	.516	14½
Minnesota	33	31	.516	14½
Vancouver	15	48	.238	32
Dallas	14	51	.215	34
Denver	7	58	.108	41
Pacific Division				
x-Seattle	48	15	.762	—
x-L.A. Lakers	45	18	.714	3
x-Phoenix	43	21	.672	5½
Portland	36	27	.571	12
Sacramento	26	40	.394	23½
Golden State	14	50	.219	34½
L.A. Clippers	14	50	.219	34½

x-clinched playoff berth.

Utah 24 22 31 32—109
Detroit 18 23 25 32—98

UTAH (109) Keefe 1-2 2-2 4, Malone 10-18 8-9 28, Foster 4-6 0-0 8, Hornacek 8-14 5-5 22, Stockton 3-9 4-4 11, Eisley 4-6 1-1 11, Russell 4-8 1-2 10, Carr 1-1 1-2 3, Morris 1-5 0-0 2, Anderson 2-4 8-6 10. Totals 38-73 28-31 109.

DETROIT (98) Hill 11-19 7-12 29, Reid 0-1 0-0 0, B.Williams 10-15 4-7 24, Dumars 2-11 0-0 6, Hunter 2-8 0-0 5, Stackhouse 7-16 5-6 19, J.Williams 1-2 0-0 2, Mahorn 0-0 0-0 0, Sealy 2-2 0-0 4, Henson 4-5 0-0 9. Totals 39-80 16-24 98.

Fouled out—Hunter. Rebounds—Utah 46 (Malone 9), Detroit 41 (B.Williams 14). Assists—Utah 27 (Stockton, Eisley 7), Detroit 18 (Stackhouse 6). Technicals—Stackhouse, Detroit illegal defense 2. A—22,076.

Miami 17 21 17 24—79
Orlando 18 17 24 17—76

MIAMI (79) Majerle 3-11 0-0 6, Brown 1-7 3-4 5, Mourning 5-14 6-8 18, Lenard 5-11 3-4 15, Hardaway 8-19 4-4 22, Strickland 1-5 0-0 2, Barry 3-6 1-1 8, Causwell 0-1 0-0 0, Mordock 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 27-76 20-23 79.

ORLANDO (76) Outlaw 4-7 2-6 10, Grant 2-6 3-5 7, Schayes 5-10 4-4 14, Anderson 12-19 5-7 30, Harper 4-8 0-1 8, Strong 2-10 0-0 4, Price 0-4 0-0 0, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Benoit 1-2 0-0 2, Otte 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-67 14-23 76.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Miami 42 (Mourning 10), Orlando 56 (Outlaw 15). Assists—Miami 13 (Hardaway 5), Orlando 19 (Harper 6). Technicals—Miami illegal defense. A—17,248.

Dallas 22 23 23 22—90
Phoenix 28 22 27 23—100

DALLAS (90) Ceballos 4-6 1-2 9, Green 4-7 0-0 8, Anstey 8-17 3-3 19, Reeves 2-12 1-3 6, Finley 8-18 4-6 20, Davis 4-13 4-4 13, Bradley 5-10 1-3 11, Riley 1-1 0-0 2, Muresanu 0-0 0-0 0, Wells 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 37-88 14-21 90.

PHOENIX (100) Robinson 5-9 0-0 10, McDyess 7-15 3-5 17, Williams 2-5 4-5 8, Kidd 9-16 1-2 20, Chapman 5-15 2-2 14, McCloud 2-6 0-0 5, Johnson 2-6 1-2 5, Manning 8-12 1-2 17, Scott 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 41-88 14-20 100.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 54 (Green, Bradley 7), Phoenix 37 (Kidd 13). Assists—Dallas 26 (Finley 12), Phoenix 28 (Kidd 12). Technicals—Phoenix coach Ainge, Robinson 2, Manning. Flagrant fouls—Manning Ejections—Robinson. A—19,023.

Los Angeles 29 22 24 17—92
Portland 31 22 21 29—103

L.A. CLIPPERS (92) Murray 5-10 4-5 14, Rogers 5-14 1-4 13, Austin 8-18 2-4 18, Pieklewski 5-10 2-2 16, Martin 5-12 2-2 16, Wright 0-3 1-2 1, Taylor 2-4 2-2 8, Richardson 2-5 0-0 5, Smith 1-3 0-0 3. Totals 33-79 14-21 92.

PORTLAND (103) Augmon 5-8 2-2 12, Wallace 4-8 4-4 12, Sabonis 11-17 6-6 28, Rider 11-22 3-3 26, Brunson 1-6 1-2 4, B.Grant 3-9 5-6 11, G.Grant 0-1 0-0 0, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, O'Neal 2-2 0-0 4, Crotty 1-1 4-4 6. Totals 38-74 25-27 103.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Los Angeles 42 (Austin 9), Portland 49 (Sabonis 15). Assists—Los Angeles 17 (Martin 6), Portland 23 (Brunson 9). Total fouls—Los Angeles 22, Portland 20. Technical—Taylor. Flagrant foul—Augmon. A—19,712.

The box scores for the Lakers-Grizzlies and Raptors-Warriors games were unavailable.

NHL statistics

Pittsburgh 0 0 0—0
Buffalo 0 0 3—3

First Period—None. Second Period—None. Third Period—1, Buffalo, Primeau 4 (Peca, Woolley), 6:48 (pp). 2, Buffalo, Peca 14 (Grosek, Zhitnik), 13:48. 3, Buffalo, Peca 15 (McKee), 18:59 (en). Goalies—Pittsburgh, Barrasso. Buffalo, Hasek. A—18,595.

Chicago 6 1 1—8
Florida 0 2 2—4

First Period—1, Chicago, Shantz 11 (Laroux, Chelios), 9:35. 2, Chicago, Daze 25 (Moreau, Kilger), 10:59. 3, Chicago, Leroux 6 (Nabokov, Shantz), 12:21. 4, Chicago, Amonte 24 (Johnson, Zhamnov), 17:21. 5, Chicago, Daze 26 (Weinrich), 17:57. 6, Chicago, Zhamnov 15 (Johnson), 19:38. Second Period—7, Florida, Sheppard 13, 10:48 (pp). 8, Chicago, Daze 27 (Kilger, Lallemme), 14:53 (pp). 9, Florida, Sheppard 14 (Jovanovski), 19:04. Third Period—10, Chicago, Daze 28 (Kilger, Suter), 6:33 (pp). 11, Florida, Gagner 16 (Svehla, Whitney), 14:36 (pp). 12, Florida, Whitney 25 (Sheppard), 16:34. Goalies—Chicago, Terreri. Florida, Vanbiesbrouck, Weekes. A—14,703.

Edmonton 0 1 0—1
Carolina 0 2 2—4

First Period—None. Second Period—1, Edmonton, Fraser 7 (da Vries, Zelepukin), 2:09. 2, Carolina, Kapanen 22 (Hill, Leschyshyn), 15:34. 3, Carolina, Gelinas 10 (Emerson, O'Neill), 16:37. Third Period—4, Carolina, Kapanen 23 (Kron), 8:25. 5, Carolina, Kapanen 24 (Primeau), 18:57 (en). Goalies—Edmonton, Joseph. Carolina, Kidd. A—7,853 (14,703).

Colorado 1 1 1—3
Anaheim 2 2 1—5

First Period—1, Anaheim, Banham 2 (Cullen, Sandstrom), 13:00 (pp). 2, Colorado, Kamensky 23 (Forsberg, Lefebvre), 13:20. 3, Anaheim, Sandstrom 7 (Green, Young), 15:50. Second Period—4, Colorado, Marha 2 (Deadmarsh, Lefebvre), 9:44. 5, Anaheim, Cullen 5, (Selanne, Young), 13:33 (pp). 6, Anaheim, Pronger 5 (Selanne, Rucchin), 18:20. Third Period—7, Colorado, Krupp 8 (Ozolinsh, Forsberg), 4:43. 8, Anaheim, Young 10 (Selanne), 19:59 (en). Goalies—Colorado, Billington. Anaheim, Shtalenkov. A—17,174.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	40	17	9	89	188	131
Philadelphia	34	20	10	78	189	147
Washington	29	25	11	69	176	171
N.Y. Rangers	20	29	17	57	162	183
N.Y. Islanders	22	34	9	53	167	184
Florida	18	35	12	48	155	199
Tampa Bay	14	42	9	37	122	208
Northeast Division						
Pittsburgh	34	19	14	82	188	156
Montreal	32	25	8	72	190	164
Boston	28	24	13	69	170	157
Buffalo	27	23	15	69	163	151
Ottawa	27	28	10	64	152	159
Carolina	26	32	7	59	160	177

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	39	16	10	88	197	132
Detroit	35	19	13	83	198	158
St. Louis	36	24	8	80	202	161
Phoenix	26	28	12	64	180	187
Chicago	25	30	11	61	162	162
Toronto	24	33	8	56	154	184
Pacific Division						
Colorado	34	19	16	84	203	172
Los Angeles	31	23	11	73	190	171
Edmonton	26	31	10	62	171	188
San Jose	26	32	7	59	161	175
Calgary	20	34	12	52	173	202
Anaheim	21	36	9	51	158	205
Vancouver	20	36	11	51	187	234

Hasek gets 10th shutout as Sabres defeat Penguins

BUFFALO (AP) — Dominik Hasek stopped 22 shots for his 10th shutout and the Buffalo Sabres scored three times in the third period for a 3-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Sunday.

Michael Peca had two goals and one assist for the Sabres, who were involved in a difficult game against Penguins goaltender Tom Barasso before breaking it open in the final 13 minutes.

Wayne Primeau's goal 6:48 into the third period broke a scoreless tie before Peca scored his two.

The game was the second part of a home-and-home series between the Sabres and Penguins.

Pittsburgh was badly outplayed on Saturday, but Barrasso made the difference in a 2-1 victory over Buffalo. On Sunday, Hasek kept the Sabres from getting embarrassed. The Penguins had no fewer than six good scoring opportunities foiled by last year's most valuable player and this year's Olympic star, who leads the NHL in shutouts.

Blackhawks 8, Panthers 4

Eric Daze scored four goals as visiting Chicago sent the Panthers to their franchise-worst ninth straight defeat.

Daze had two goals in a six-goal first period by Chicago. The goals were the most ever allowed in a period in Florida's five-year history. The Blackhawks record for goals in a period is seven, most recently in 1972.

The eight goals were the most by Chicago since an 8-4 win against Los Angeles on March 11, 1996. It was also the first four-goal game of Daze's NHL career.

John Vanbiesbrouck, who has been rumored to be on the way out of Florida, gave up all six goals on 18 Chicago shots. He was replaced by rookie Kevin Weekes to start the second period.

Hurricanes 4, Oilers 1

Sami Kapanen got his second hat trick in as many games against Edmonton, helping Carolina to end its seven-game winless drought at home.

Kapanen, whose only other career hat trick came in the Hurricanes' Nov. 12 victory in Edmonton, pushed his team-leading goal count to 24. The Hurricanes won for the fifth time in seven games and halted the Oilers' best winning streak of the season at three games.

Martin Gelinas added a goal for the Hurricanes, who went ahead by scoring 63 seconds apart in the second period. The scores gave Carolina its first victory at the Greensboro Coliseum since Jan. 5, snapping an 0-5-2 skid.

Scott Fraser got the lone goal for Edmonton, which was coming off back-to-back shutouts.

Mighty Ducks 5, Avalanche 3

Rookies Frank Banham and Matt Cullen scored power-play goals and Tomas Sandstrom ended a 34-game scoring drought as host Anaheim snapped a seven-game losing streak.

It was only the second time in 28 games that the Mighty Ducks have scored twice with the one-man advantage. They had only one goal in 29 power plays over their previous six games and entered the game with the NHL's second-worst power play (31-for-299).

Sean Pronger also scored, Scott Young added an empty-netter and Teemu Selanne set up three more goals for the last-place Ducks, who began the day trailing the first-place Avalanche by 35 points in the Pacific Division and are eight points out of a playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Anaheim's Mikhail Shtalenkov made 18 saves byt he surrendered goals by Valeri Kamensky, Uwe Krupp and rookie Josef Marha.

'If Eagleson stays, we go'

Howe, Orr threaten to quit hockey Hall of Fame if former union head remains

BOSTON (AP) — Gordie Howe, Bobby Orr and 16 other members of the Hockey Hall of Fame say they will leave the sport's shrine if it allows former union head Alan Eagleson to remain.

A survey of 44 of the Hall's 76 living members showed 18 said they would leave if Eagleson stayed, another 20 also wanted him out, five were non-committal and one said he should stay.

"They need a cranium operation to even think he belongs there," said Howe, the NHL's second leading all-time scorer. "If they don't understand the meaning of what the Hall of Fame should be, I don't want anything to do with it."

Eagleson, elected to the Hall in 1989 in the "builder's" category, is serving an 18-month jail term in Ontario for defrauding Hockey Canada, the NHL, the NHL Players Association and Labatt Breweries of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Hall's 18-member board of directors is expected to decide Eagleson's future in Toronto on March 31. Howe stated his position in a letter March 5 to Scotty Morrison, the chairman of the Hall of Fame.

If Eagleson is not removed March 31, Orr said he will ask the next day that the Hall return any possessions of his and take his picture down from the wall.

"If the players don't count, if the players don't have a say, they can have a Hall of Fame without Bobby Orr and I'm sure a few others," said Orr, in the Hall since 1979.

Morrison said the board would consider the players' positions as well as letters already written backing Eagleson.

"If there are a number of players who express themselves that they don't want to be a part of the Hall of Fame if Alan Eagleson remains, it's got to have an influence," Morrison said.

According to the paper, the 16 other players who have threatened to leave the Hall are Andy Bathgate, Mike Bossy, Johnny Bower, Johnny Bucyk, Bernie Geoffrion, Glenn Hall, Bobby Hull, Red Kelly, Ted Lindsay, Frank Mahovlich, Dickie Moore, Brad Park, Jean Ratelle, Henri Richard, Norm Ullman and Gump Worsley.

Those who were non-committal were Ken Dryden, Bob Gainey, Jacques Laperriere, Serge Savard and Darryl Sittler. Bobby Clarke, the general manager of the Philadelphia Flyers, said Eagleson should stay.

"Should he be removed? No, not at all," Clarke said. "There's nowhere that it says if you don't live up to a certain standard, you come out of the Hall of Fame." Eagleson pleaded guilty Jan. 7 in Toronto to three counts of fraud and began serving an 18-month sentence in Ontario. Under Canadian law, he could be out in three months.

A day earlier in Boston, he was fined $697,810, or $1 million Canadian, for skimming the pensions and disability insurance of players he once represented.

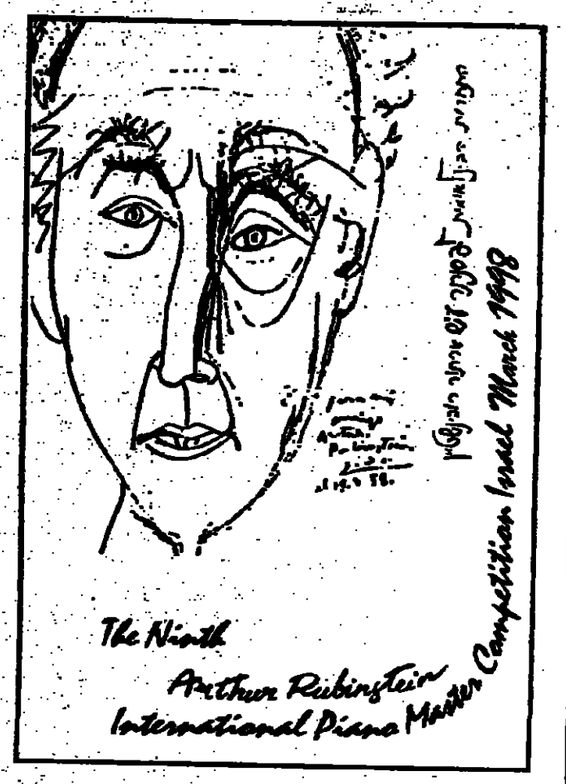
CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Today at 9 a.m. at the Tel Aviv Museum, the Ninth International Arthur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition opens, in which 52 young pianists from 21 countries will compete for the coveted first prize. During the first stage of the competition, which continues daily except Saturday until March 23, each pianist plays a free choice 40- to 50-minute recital which must include at least one Classical and one Romantic work and an obligatory Israeli work (by either Gil Shohat or Eliezer Alper). Today, tomorrow, Thursday, Friday, next Sunday and Monday at the Tel Aviv Museum, with two sessions daily at 9 a.m. and 4 except Friday when there is no afternoon session.

Greek soprano Sonia Theodoridou and pianist Janis Vakarelis present a program of songs by Manos Hadjidakis tonight at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv (8:30).

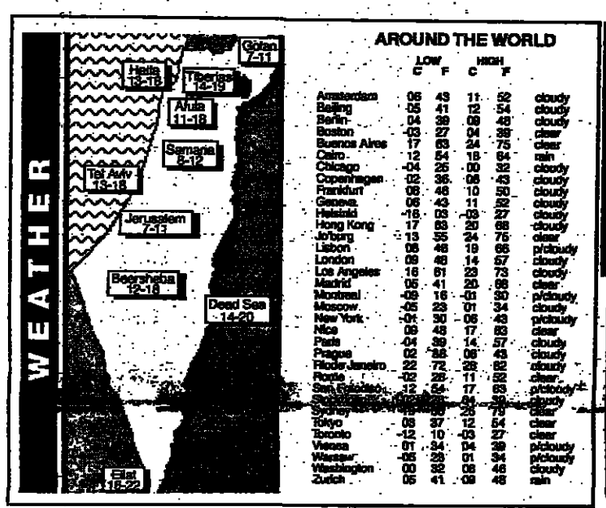


The logo of the Ninth International Arthur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition is taken from a drawing by Picasso.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

A new police drama from the house of Steve Bochco (producer of *NYPD Blue* and *Hill Street Blues*) is coming to Channel 1 in the time slot recently filled by James Bond. *Brooklyn South*, at 10 p.m. Tuesdays, produced for CBS, examines the personal and professional lives of the patrolmen on the mean streets of Brooklyn's 74th precinct in a hard-hitting realistic way. The extremely violent show, rated TV-MA (adults only), has already been targeted by the American Family Organization and other morality warriors. The cast includes Jon Tenney, Michael DeLuise and James Sikking.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	06	43	11	52	cloudy
Beijing	05	41	12	54	cloudy
Berlin	04	39	09	48	cloudy
Boston	-03	27	04	39	clear
Buenos Aires	17	63	24	75	clear
Cairo	12	54	18	64	rain
Chicago	-04	25	00	32	cloudy
Copenhagen	02	36	06	43	cloudy
Frankfurt	06	46	10	50	cloudy
Geneva	06	43	11	52	cloudy
Helsinki	-16	03	-03	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	63	22	68	cloudy
Jo'burg	13	55	24	75	clear
Lisbon	08	46	19	66	p/cloudy
London	09	48	14	57	cloudy
Los Angeles	16	61	23	73	cloudy
Madrid	05	41	20	66	clear
Montreal	-09	16	-01	30	p/cloudy
Moscow	-05	23	01	34	cloudy
New York	-01	30	06	43	p/cloudy
Nice	09	48	17	63	clear
Paris	04	39	14	57	cloudy
Prague	02	36	06	43	cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	22	72	28	82	cloudy
Rome	02	28	11	52	clear
San Francisco	12	54	17	63	p/cloudy
Stockholm	-06	21	00	32	cloudy
Sydney	18	64	25	77	clear
Tokyo	06	37	12	54	clear
Toronto	-12	10	-03	27	clear
Vienna	01	34	04	39	p/cloudy
Warsaw	-05	23	01	34	p/cloudy
Washington	00	32	08	46	cloudy
Zurich	05	41	09	48	rain

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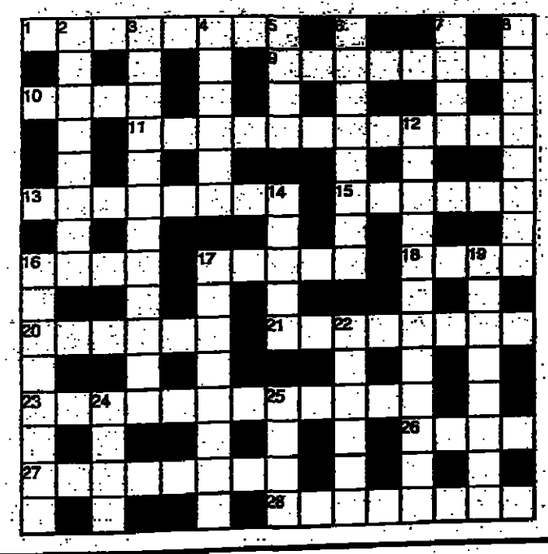
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

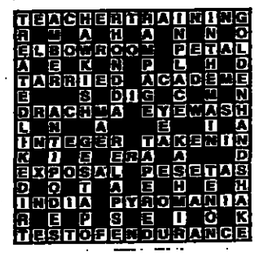
1 Mixed POW camp (8)
9 Deck in a thousand-tonner, possibly (8)
10 Prepare to put out with the turn of the tide (4)
11 He's put a lot of places on the map (12)
13 Smash gavel, say, in a violent way (8)
15 Dope put in the soup (6)
16 Quarrel that can be relatively bitter (4)
17 It takes off and levels out (5)
18 Somerset Maugham's downfall (4)
20 Rigid habit of the medieval ages (6)
21 Agency typist departed—it's the pattern (8)
23 Fail to understand decimals correctly? (4,3,5)
26 18 spread round the country (4)
27 Gas main? (5,3)
28 Was in occupation, with mind to become a stake-holder (8)

DOWN

2 Throw out bread that's hard (8)
3 Game causing ill-feeling in the main? (5,3,4)
4 Falsely disloyal (6)
5 Prepare and serve a bird, none now left (4)
6 Appearance of charm (8)
7 Engage me with a plea for silence (4)
8 Fish in turn goes bad (8)
12 The family's failure makes a wretched story (4,8)
14 Indeed a way used to get a rise (5)
16 A piece from the Financial Times about Steptoe and Son? (8)
17 It's bought for mechanical advantage (8)
19 Private hint (8)
22 No one scores off this girl (6)
24 Father is up and about (4)
25 A favourite around the turf (4)



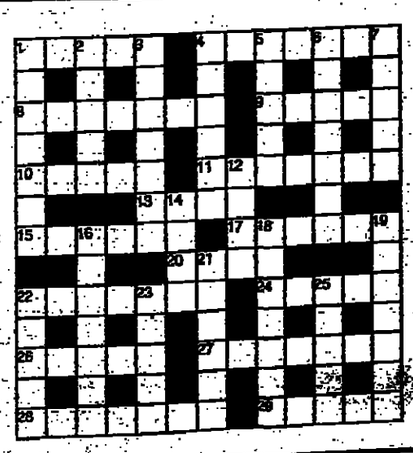
SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 West, 3 Highland, 9 White, 10 Terrier, 11 Dog, 12 Pantaloon, 14 Swampy, 16 Feline, 18 Charabanc, 20 Year, 22 Bristol, 23 Wagon, 25 Tenacity, 26 Spry.

DOWN: 1 Wowed, 2 Sid, 4 Intend, 5 Herbage, 6 Animosity, 7 Damage, 8 Soap, 13 Gradation, 14 Sachbet, 15 Plastic, 17 Wallet, 19 Cowl, 21 Windy, 24 Gap.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 NE US state (5)
4 Lodgers (7)
8 Defamation (7)
9 Staff (5)
10 Abreast (5)
11 Drank (7)
13 Zulu warriors (4)
15 Appliance (6)
17 Disclose (6)
20 Rush (4)
22 Intricate (7)
24 Inlay (5)
26 Rule (5)
27 Chapter (7)
28 Constituent (7)
29 Children's nurse (5)

DOWN

1 Condiment (7)
2 Angry (5)
3 Localised (7)
4 Root vegetable (6)
5 Rich man (5)
6 Remarkable (7)
7 Ecclesiastical council (5)
12 Marsh (4)
14 Lake (4)
16 Blood-sucker (7)
18 Issue (7)
19 Raffle (7)
21 Specialist (6)
22 Arc (5)
23 Thrust (5)
25 Disdain (5)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Computer Sciences
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Science and Nature
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 English
12:00 French
12:30 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
13:30 Animation
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Super Ben and Zap 1
15:35 Rocky Yarocky
16:00 Byker Grove
16:30 Zapzaps
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Taltala
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash
19:31 The Simpsons – Mountain of Madness
19:53 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Mine Host Meni Pe'er
21:55 Lotto Draw – live
22:00 Brooklyn South – new police series by *NYPD* and *Hill Street Blues* creator Steven Bochco about the complex and fragile relations between Brooklyn police officers and the district's residents. With Jon Tenney, Michael Deluise, James Simming and Gary Basarada
22:45 First Person – with Ram Evron
23:25 Filmed on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Cartoons
6:43 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 The Little Circle
12:00 Anatan Wasahatan
12:30 Forest of Legends
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Zombit
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Junior News
15:00 Best Video Clips
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Reshet
17:30 New Zehu Zeh
18:00 Dream On You
18:30 Family and a Half
19:00 Fame L.A.
20:00 News
20:31 IDF 1
21:05 Candid Camera
21:50 Dan Shilon Live
23:30 Oz
00:00 News
00:05 Oz, contd.
00:40 Mission Impossible
1:30 Detectives on the Wave
2:15 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

16:00 Holy Koran
16:10 Children's TV
16:30 Conan the Adventurer
17:00 To Know More
18:00 Magazine
18:30 Bordertown
19:00 La Journal
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Game Show
20:00 What Would You Do?
20:30 Encounters
21:00 Magazine
21:10 Acapulco Bay
22:00 *News in English*
22:30 Movie
00:00 Metro Cale
00:30 Animation

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Arthur
17:23 Madeleine
17:45 Babar
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Ed Sullivan
20:25 Acapulco Heat
21:25 The Cape
22:05 Sirens
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

Broadcasts begin after coverage of Knesset sitting
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 Panel in Arabic
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctor's Talk – CT developments
20:00 News
21:00 Criminal Justice
22:00 Telekessef
22:30 Royal Canadian Air Farce
23:00 Cinema 3

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Riding High
16:00 Splat
16:30 Reading Direction
17:00 Olivewood
17:30 Nature and Science
18:00 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Computer Sciences
19:30 Beginnings – looking at Russians in Israel
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Through Our Eyes
21:00 Muses: The Mirror Language
21:45 Israeli Pop
22:00 Growing Old in a New Age
23:00 Upstairs Downstairs

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Murphy Brown
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210
21:35 Suddenly Susan
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Silk Stalkings
00:30 Hart to Hart
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Uncut Gem (1988) – a gang of criminals flee the scene of a botched jewelery heist with a hostage who they *know must die*
13:35 Her Last Chance (1996) – a girl undergoing rehabilitation from drug and alcohol addiction is wrongly accused of murder
15:05 Is There Life Out There? (1994) – a woman shaken by her father's death finds she has cancer and returns to university
16:40 Steal Big, Steal Little (1995) – tale of twin brothers separated in childhood who grow up with different outlooks on life. With Andy Garcia, Alan Arkin, Ally Walker and Rachel Ticotin
18:55 Johnny and Clyde (1997) – comic adventures of a boy left to take care of a dog
20:20 The Heist (1989) – an armored car guard is forced to help a robber who kidnapped his daughter. With Elizabeth Ashley and Christopher George
22:00 Clerks (1994) – low-budget cult comedy by Kevin Smith about a day in the life of two bored friends who work in neighboring grocery and video-rental stores
23:40 Last Exit to Earth (1996) – sci-fi thriller about a future world ruled by women, where the gene for violence has been eradicated from men
1:10 Someone To Die For (1995) – a cop whose daughter is *killed during a chase* vows revenge and finds himself accused of the murder of three colleagues. With Corbin Bernsen

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:40 Little Bear
8:50 Make-Believe Closet
9:05 Willy Fogg
9:35 The Smurfs
10:00 Flying Classroom
10:15 Ninja Turtles
10:40 Flying Classroom
10:55 Bruno
11:15 Flying Classroom
11:15 Moesha (rpt)
11:55 Flying Classroom
12:15 Animaniacs
12:25 Flying Classroom
12:45 The Arena (rpt)
13:15 Dennis the Menace
13:30 Oscar and Friends
13:40 Surprise Garden
14:05 Treasure Island
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 Flying Classroom
15:15 Ninja Turtles
15:40 Flying Classroom
15:50 Road Rovers
16:15 Flying Classroom
16:35 A Different World
17:10 Animaniacs
17:30 Flying Classroom
17:45 Lois and Clark
18:30 The Arena
19:00 Step by Step
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Helen and the Boys – French comedy
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:30 Beverly Hills *90210*

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:15 The Night of the Hunter (1955) –thriller directed by Charles Laughton about an evil preacher who pursues two homeless orphans for the money he believes they're hiding. With Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters and Lillian Gish
23:45 Nothing Sacred (1937) – classic satire of journalism by Ben Hecht. Directed by William Wellman. With Carole Lombard and Fredric March

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:05 Two Fat Ladies: Game (rpt)
8:35 Betty's Voyage: Calcutta (rpt)
9:05 Brave New Babies
10:00 Debussy's Pelleas et Melisande
12:40 A Healthy Body
13:15 Belief and Disbelief (rpt)
14:05 Ultrascience: Cosmic Collision (rpt)
14:30 Beyond 2000
15:20 Cloning Revolution
16:15 Human Nature
17:00 Open University
19:05 A Healthy Body
19:40 Freedom Fighters – on the developing sphere of civil right in the US
20:30 *Ultrascience:* Cars of the Future
21:00 Eight on Eight with Yael Dan
21:45 Mind Control
22:35 Human Nature
23:30 Open University

■ NBC EUROPE

6:00 The News with Brian Williams
7:00 Europe Today
10:00 European Money Wheel
13:00 Internight (rpt)
14:00 Time and Again
15:00 Europe à la Carte (rpt)
15:30 VIP (rpt)
16:00 Today Show
17:00 Spencer Christian's Wine Cellar
17:30 Dream House – how one family built their dream house
18:00 Time and Again
19:00 Flavors of France
19:30 VIP
20:00 Europe Tonight
20:30 The Ticket
21:00 Dateline
22:00 NBC Supersports
22:30 Gillette World Sports Special
23:00 Tonight Show
00:00 Conan O'Brien
1:00 The Ticket (rpt)
1:30 NBC Nightly News
5:30 Wines of Italy

■ STAR PLUS

6:00 Hindi programs
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 Fawlty Towers
8:30 The X-Files
9:30 Santa Barbara
10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
11:00 Hindi programs
12:00 City Lites
12:30 It's A Small World
13:00 WWF Superstars
14:00 Hindi programs
17:30 Star News
18:00 Mind Your Language
18:30 Murder, She Wrote
19:30 A Question of Answers
20:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:30 Star News (rpt)
21:00 Newhart
21:30 Baywatch
22:30 Charlie's Angels
23:30 Vegas
00:30 Oprah Winfrey
1:30 Fantasy Island
2:30 Hindi programs
3:30 Good Morning India
5:30 Hindi programs

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:30 Science World
7:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
8:00 The World Today
9:30 Top Gear (rpt)
10:30 Science World
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 Earth Report: Cameroon (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World: Sea Trek, part 2
15:00 World News & Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 Holiday (rpt)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Correspondent
19:30 Film '98 (rpt)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:00 Reporters
23:30 A Golfer's Travels: Spain
00:30 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
2:05 USA Direct

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News through the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report: As They See It
14:30 Digital Jam
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Showbiz Today
19:00 Larry King Live
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Women's FILA League Basketball
18:00 ISA Championships from Eilat
18:30 English Soccer Roundup
19:30 Candid Camera
20:00 International Journal
20:50 Samsung Sports Magazine
21:15 UEFA Cup Soccer – quarterfinals: Aston Villa vs Athletico Madrid; Spartak Moscow vs Ajax, live
23:30 South American Soccer

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Soccer – Argentina vs Bulgaria
11:00 Xtreme Sport
11:30 Surfing – from Indonesia
12:00 Cart Racing
13:00 Eurogoals
14:30 Winter Sports - Italy
15:00 Xtreme Sports
16:00 Xtreme Sports from Colorado
17:00 Roller Skating – from Orlando
18:00 Tractor Pulling
19:00 Eurogoals
20:30 Motor Racing – 4x4
21:00 Mountain Biking
22:30 Boxing
23:30 UEFA Cup Soccer – quarterfinals
1:30 Rally – Kenya
2:00 Gliding – from Lugano, Switzerland

■ STAR SPORTS (16/15) (unconfirmed)

6:30 Thai Boxing
7:30 International Sports
8:30 Soccer – Gillette World Cup
9:30 Boxing
11:30 Spanish League Soccer
12:00 Indian Sports
12:30 Asian Soccer
13:30 International Motor Sports
14:30 Golf
15:00 Whatever Round-the-World Race
15:30 Boxing
17:30 Soccer – World Cup, First Eleven
19:00 Soccer – World Cup Golden Boots
19:30 Golf
20:30 Show Jumping – Volvo Cup
21:30 Soccer – Gillette World Cup
22:00 Table-Tennis – Qatar Open Championship
00:00 Soccer – Far East Club Championships
2:00 Cycling

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Mendelssohn: Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream (Rotterdam PO/Tait); Mozart: Serenata Notturna in D for two orchestras K239 (Berlin PO/Karajan); Schubert/Webern: German Dances (Berlin PO/Boulez);; Bach/Webern: Fugue for 6 voices (Berlin PO/Boulez); Guridi: Ancient Melodies for Harp (Har-Oz)
7:07 Bizet: Carmen Suite (Toulouse Capitol Orch/Plasson); Ravel: Pavane pour une infante Defunte (Royal PO/Previn); Granados: 2 pieces from Goyescas (De Larrocha); Ravel: Bolero (Berlin PO/Boulez)
8:05 Chopin: Polonaise in C minor (Ashkenazy); Chopin: Piano Trio op 8 (Perlman/Ma/Ax); Liszt: 6 Polish Songs op 74 after Chopin arr. for piano (Banovetz)
9:05 Scarlatti: Stabat Mater (Currende Vocal Ens/Van Nevel); D'Anglebert: First Suite for Harpsichord (Ross); Mozart: Sinfonie Concertante K364 arr. for string sextet (Archibudelli); Brahms: Double Concerto op 102 (Kaler/Kliegel/Irish NO/Constantin); Schumann: Symphony no 2 (Champs Elysees Orch/Herreweghe)
12:00 Light Classical
13:00 Artist of the Week - Guy Braunstein, violin. Brahms: String Quintet no 1 op 111 (Hildesheim/Sivan/Kamil/Kish); Bruch: Concerto no 1 op 26 (Jerusalem/Temirkanov SO/Shostakovich

Inside

Murdoch's National Pastime
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Man. Utd. held up by French connection
Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Gascoigne left out of England squad

LONDON (Reuters) – Paul Gascoigne was left out of a 26-man England squad named by coach Glenn Hoddle for a friendly international against Switzerland in Berne next Wednesday.

Gascoigne, who will be 31 in May, has only played one full match in the last three months, and has recently been the subject of transfer speculation linking him with a move from Glasgow Rangers to either Crystal Palace or Middlesbrough.

Hoddle was due to address a news conference late yesterday and was expected to explain Gascoigne's ommission.

While Gascoigne was missing, there was a place for Middlesbrough's inspirational midfielder Paul Merson who has battled back from drug, drinking and gambling addictions to re-establish his career at the top.

Merson, who will be 30 on Friday, last played for England as a substitute against Italy 13 months ago, but has shown outstanding form for Middlesbrough in their promotion bid back to the premier league since his £5 million move from Arsenal last summer.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Nigel Martyn (Leeds United), Tim Flowers (Blackburn Rovers), Kevin Pressman (Sheffield Wednesday)

Defenders: Sol Campbell (Toittenham), Martin Keown (Arsenal), Gary Neville (Manchester United), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Andy Hinchliffe (Sheffield Wednesday), Gareth Southgate (Aston Villa), Rio Ferdinand (West Ham), Philip Neville (Man Utd), Graeme Le Saux (Chelsea)

Midfield: Ray Parlour (Arsenal), Paul Merson (Middlesbrough), Paul Ince (Liverpool), David Batty (Newcastle), David Beckham (Man Utd), Robert Lee (Newcastle)

Forwards: Paul Scholes (Man Utd), Steve McManaman (Liverpool), Nicky Butt (Man Utd), Alan Shearer (Newcastle), Michael Owen (Liverpool), Dion Dublin (Coventry), Andy Cole (Man Utd), Teddy Sheringham (Man Utd).

Blatter's future to be clear soon

ZURICH (Reuters) – FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter will reveal by the end of this month whether he will run for president of soccer's world governing body, he told a Swiss newspaper.

Coy as ever about whether he would put himself forward as a candidate in June's election to succeed FIFA President Joao Havelange if nominated by a national association, Blatter told the *Sonntags Zeitung* Sunday paper the world would not have to wait until the deadline of April 7 to find out his plans.

"I will not wait this long. Everything will be clear by the end of March," he told the newspaper.

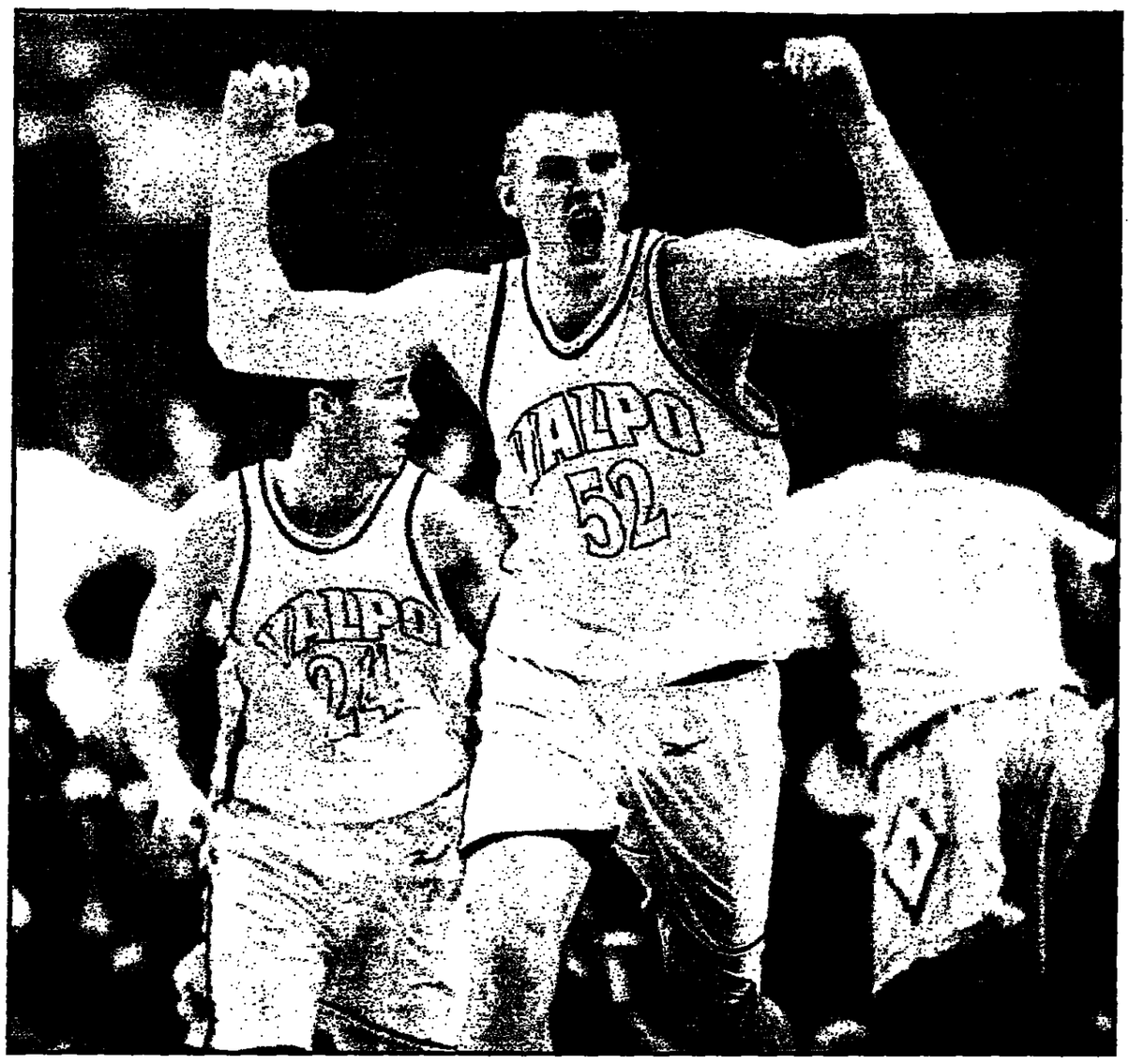
Blatter's contract as FIFA general secretary comes to an end at the end of 1998, so although there is likely to be a new General Secretary shortly in any case, the intrigue is whether that man will be of Blatter's choosing as FIFA president – or chosen by Lennart Johansson, the only man to so far declare his candidature for the vote.

"You will know more at the end of the month, and then there would still be a way to go," he said with a laugh.

FIFA was thrown into confusion on Friday when Havelange and Blatter stormed out of an executive committee meeting before a vote could be taken on Blatter's future.

Blatter can only stand if one of FIFA's national associations backs him. At issue was the highly contentious matter of his future as general secretary if he declares his plans to replace Havelange.

The 82-year-old Brazilian retires after 24 years in office later this year.



THAT WINNING FEELING – Valparaiso University center Antanas Vilcinskas runs the floor celebrating a layup which put his team four points up in overtime over Florida State. the 13th seeded Valparaiso won 83-77. (Reuters)

Rhode Island upsets Kansas for Sweet 16 berth

NEW YORK (AP) — One game will be a family affair. Another will feature two schools with a total of 17 national championships. And another will be a dogfight between Huskies.

Rhode Island-Valparaiso, UCLA-Kentucky and Connecticut-Washington are among the eight matchups in the final 16 of the NCAA tournament.

The most intriguing game might be eighth-seeded Rhode Island vs. No. 13 Valparaiso on Friday night.

Rhode Island is coached by Jim Harrick, who led UCLA to the national title in 1995, but was fired after the following season. Harrick's son, Jim Jr., is an assistant to Valparaiso coach Homer Drew, whose star player is his son Bryce.

Rhode Island upset top-seeded Kansas 80-75 Sunday in the Midwest Regional to reach the final 16 for the second time in school history. Earlier on the same court in Oklahoma City, Valparaiso beat 12th-seeded Florida State 83-77 in overtime to send the smallest school in the tournament to the regional semifinals.

"Nobody gave us a chance," said Jamie Sykes, who scored 19 points for Valparaiso. "Now we can say we are in the Sweet 16.

This is beautiful. You just want to cry. Nobody knew us and now people are trying to buy Valpo shirts off us."

In other Midwest Regional games Sunday, Stanford beat Western Michigan 83-65 and Purdue defeated Detroit 80-65.

In the South Regional, Duke beat Oklahoma State 79-73, Syracuse downed New Mexico 56-46, Kentucky routed Saint Louis 88-61, and UCLA defeated Michigan 85-82.

On Saturday, in the East, it was North Carolina 93, North Carolina Charlotte 83 in overtime; Michigan State 63, Princeton 56; Washington 81, Richmond 66; and Connecticut 78, Indiana 68.

In the West, it was Maryland 67, Illinois 61; Arizona 82, Illinois State 49; West Virginia 75, Cincinnati 74; Utah 75, Arkansas 69.

The regional semifinals start Thursday night with North Carolina-Michigan State and Connecticut-Washington in the East, and West Virginia-Utah and Arizona-Maryland in the West.

On Friday night, it's Duke-Syracuse and UCLA-Kentucky in the South, and Purdue-Stanford and Rhode Island-Valparaiso in the Midwest.

The UCLA-Kentucky game will match the two schools with the most NCAA basketball titles. UCLA is the leader with 11, and Kentucky is next with six.

The most interesting thing about the Connecticut-Washington matchup might be their nicknames. Both teams are called the Huskies, a nickname used by only two other Division I teams — Northeastern and Northern Illinois.

SOUTH

Duke 79, Oklahoma State 73

Roshown McLeod had 22 points and 10 rebounds as Duke (31-3) reached the final 16 for the first time since 1994.

The Blue Devils made 7 of 8 free throws in the final 40 seconds to clinch coach Mike Krzyzewski's 42nd tournament win, tying Louisville's Denny Crum for third on the all-time list.

Syracuse 56, New Mexico 46

Todd Burgan had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Syracuse's zone defense held New Mexico (24-8) to a season-low 26 percent from the field.

The Orangemen (26-8) shot just 34 percent, but committed only eight turnovers and outrebounded the Lobos 49-36.

New Mexico star Kenny Thomas had 12 points and 12 rebounds, but was only 4-of-16 from the field.

Kentucky 88, Saint Louis 61

Jeff Sheppard showed no lingering effects from an ankle sprain, scoring 18 points as Kentucky (31-4) routed Saint Louis (22-11).

Chris Heinrich led Saint Louis with a career-high 16 points.

UCLA 85, Michigan 82

Coming off the worst game of his career, senior Kris Johnson sank eight straight free throws over the final 37 seconds to lift UCLA (24-8) over Michigan (25-9).

Michigan cut a late eight-point deficit to two on three occasions in the final 30 seconds, only to see Johnson make his free throws.

Johnson, who scored just three points in Friday's first-round win over Miami, finished with 25. Robert Traylor had 19 points for Michigan.

MIDWEST

Valparaiso 83, Florida St. 77 (OT)

Bryce Drew, whose buzzer-beating 3-pointer upset Mississippi in the first round, scored 22 points and clinched the victory for Valparaiso with two free throws in the closing seconds.

Bob Jenkins and Antanas Vilcinskas each made follow shots in the final two minutes of overtime

NCAA Tournament Glance. (All Times EST)
EAST REGIONAL
First Round
North Carolina 88, Navy 52
North Carolina Charlotte 77, Illinois-Chicago 62
Princeton 59, UNLV 57
Michigan State 83, Eastern Michigan 71
Washington 69, Xavier 68
Richmond 62, South Carolina 61
Indiana 94, Oklahoma 87 (OT)
Connecticut 93, Fairleigh Dickinson 85
Second Round
North Carolina 93, North Carolina Charlotte 83 (OT)
Michigan State 63, Princeton 56
Washington 81, Richmond 66
Connecticut 78, Indiana 68
Regional Semifinals
At Greensboro Coliseum
Thursday, March 19
North Carolina (32-3) vs. Michigan State (22-7), 7:39 p.m.
Connecticut (31-4) vs. Washington (20-5), 9:59 p.m.

SOUTH REGIONAL
First Round
Syracuse 53, Iona 51
New Mexico 79, Butler 62
Oklahoma State 74, George Washington 52
Duke 99, Radford 63
Kentucky 82, South Carolina State 67
Saint Louis 81, Massachusetts 46
Michigan 80, Davidson 61
UCLA 85, Miami 82
Second Round
Duke 79, Oklahoma State 73
Syracuse 56, New Mexico 46
Kentucky 88, Saint Louis 61
UCLA 85, Michigan 82
Regional Semifinals
At Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Friday, March 20
Duke (31-3) vs. Syracuse (26-6), 7:39 p.m.
Kentucky (31-4) vs. UCLA (24-8), 9:59 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
First Round
Valparaiso 70, Mississippi 69
Florida State 96, Texas Christian 87
Rhode Island 97, Murray State 74
Kansas 110, Prairie View 52
Western Michigan 75, Clemson 72
Stanford 67, College of Charleston 57
Purdue 95, Delaware 56
Detroit 66, St. John's 64
Second Round
Valparaiso 83, Florida State 77
Rhode Island 80, Kansas 75
Stanford 83, Western Michigan 65
Purdue 80, Detroit 65
Regional Semifinals
At The Kiel Center, St. Louis
Friday, March 20
Purdue (28-7) vs. Stanford (28-4), 8:05 p.m.
Rhode Island (24-8) vs. Valparaiso (23-9), 10:25 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL
First Round
Maryland 82, Utah State 68
Boston U. 64, South Alabama 51
Illinois State 82, Tennessee 81 (OT)
Arizona 99, Nicholls State 80
West Virginia 82, Temple 52
Cincinnati 65, Northern Arizona 62
Utah 85, San Francisco 68
Arkansas 74, Nebraska 65
Second Round
Maryland 67, Illinois 61
Arizona 82, Illinois State 49
West Virginia 75, Cincinnati 74
Utah 75, Arkansas 69
Regional Semifinals
At Arrowhead Pond Anaheim
Thursday, March 19
West Virginia (24-8) vs. Utah (27-3), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (29-4) vs. Maryland (21-10), 10:25 p.m.

UK tells ticketless fans to stay home

LONDON (Reuters) – Britain's Sports Minister yesterday told thousands of ticketless soccer fans to stay away from the World Cup in France and warned them that French policemen "don't mess about."

Tony Banks told the House of Commons that the allocation of tickets for English and Scottish fans was "clearly inadequate" but held out little hope of any improvement.

"If you haven't got a ticket for the World Cup finals, do not travel," Banks insisted, repeating his warning several times. "The French police don't muck around and they've got very very strict rules about ticket-touting as well. So don't risk it."

Banks said the government had backed the English Football Association in its efforts to secure more tickets for its 32,000 registered fans but explained: "In the end, of course, we can't force FIFA or the French authorities to release more tickets."

"There is a lot of dissatisfaction with the allocation and when England gets the World Cup finals for 2006 it certainly won't be repeated," Banks said. "I would very much like to be able to wish up more tickets but unfortunately I can't do so."

But he added that he had not given up hope of persuading the French authorities to recycle some of the tickets allocated originally to French fans.

England supporters have been allocated only 3,790 tickets for their first game against Tunisia, 2,749 for their match against Romania and 2,589 when they play Colombia.

Banks reminded English fans – who still have a bad reputation for hooliganism in Europe – that they were ambassadors for their country and misbehavior could handicap England's bid for the 2006 finals.

But he said the government had been working closely with the French authorities and promised: "As long as our fans behave themselves there will be no difficulties." He voiced concern over what he described as "scandalous" advertisements by travel companies for high-priced World Cup package trips and said no tickets for the final rounds had yet been printed.

Britain's bid for 2006 was given a boost last week by FIFA president Joao Havelange, who met Prime Minister Tony Blair and gave his support.

Banks described Havelange as "a wily old politician" who made such remarks to his hosts in other countries as well, but welcomed his support nonetheless.

Rain spoils England's high hopes

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — Persistent rain throughout the fifth and final day allowed just 18.3 overs and condemned the fifth cricket Test between the West Indies and England to a draw yesterday.

The West Indies, resuming on 71 without loss chasing an improbable target of 375, finished on 112 for two. Opener Philo Wallace, in his second Test, completed his maiden half century, making 61.

Captain Brian Lara was unbeaten on 13 and Shivnarine Chanderpaul three when umpires Eddie Nicholls and Cyril Mitchely called off play in late afternoon. Rain had delayed the start of play and returned in the afternoon.

England's high expectations of victory were frustrated as light rain delayed play until 1 p.m. local time. At that point, a minimum of 71 overs remained.

The visitors quickly lifted their hopes with the wicket of Clayton Lambert in the second over.

Left-hander Lambert added one to his overnight 28 when he top-edged a pull at seamer Angus Fraser. Dean Headley ran around 15 yards to his left from mid-on to haul in a fine, tumbling catch.

A further, brief interruption with the score at 84 for one caused the loss of one more over.

Fast bowler Andy Caddick struck in his first over, removing Wallace to end a second wicket stand of 36 with Lara.

Wallace, who on Sunday struck the ball powerfully down the ground in racing to 38, again used the aerial route successfully.

He reached his fifty with an authoritative clout over long on onto the roof of the Pickwick Pavilion off left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell. The landmark came up off 89 balls, in 138 minutes with eight fours and a six.

The 27-year-old Barbadian added another boundary, a thunderous lofted off-drive off Fraser before was leg before wicket to Caddick's break-back.

Just three overs later, the skies opened again and although the umpires attempted to resume after an early tea, the weather finally sent them off the field for the last time at 3 p.m. local time.

The Test series, led 2-1 by the West Indies, winds up in St. John's, Antigua, where the sixth and final match starts on Friday.

Israel arrive in Romania for friendly

By ORI LEWIS

Israel's national soccer squad arrived in a cold Bucharest yesterday afternoon, two days before the international friendly against Romania on Wednesday evening.

The party was delayed by several hours due to the sand storms which prevented their takeoff from Ben-Gurion Airport.

Shlomo Scharf's men carried out their first training session in extra layers of winter clothing last night and they were joined by Haim Revivo, who flew in from Spain.

Revivo is doubtful for the match after suffering a left thigh strain in Celta Vigo's goalless draw with Tenerife in the Spanish league on Sunday.

Israel's starting lineup is not yet certain, with the goalkeeper's spot up for grabs. Scharf has still to choose between the experienced Rafi Cohen and the in-form Nir Davidovich.

Seven players appear certain to start, however, they are: Alon Harazi, Ran Ben-Shimon, Amir Shelah, Arik Benado, David Amsalem, Jan Talasnikov and Yossi Abuksis.

The match kicks off at 18:00 tomorrow at the Steaua Bucharest ground, with live coverage on Channel 1 and Radio 2.



GUNNING FOR No. 1 – Marcello Rios. (Reuters)

Rios bats Rusedski in Champions Cup final

INDIAN WELLS, Ca. (Reuters) – Seventh seed Marcelo Rios of Chile reached the highest ranking of his career, climbing to No. 3 in the world yesterday after outlasting sixth-seeded Greg Rusedski of Britain 6-3 6-7 (15-17) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4 in the final of the Champions Cup.

"I think it's a big step in my career," Rios said. "Really, you can see that you can even be No. 1 if you play good.

"One year ago, I was 20, now I'm three, so you realize you can do a lot better. That gives you more confidence, you get more energy, to keep on going and try to be better each day."

The victory was the second of the year for Rios, who also won in Auckland in January. He reached the final of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career at the Australian Open in January, but lost to second-ranked Petr Korda of the Czech Republic.

Rusedski, who reached his first career Grand Slam final at the US Open last September, was competing in his third final of the year. He won in Antwerp last month.

The Briton would also have climbed to the No. 3 ranking with a win. Instead he will moved into the fifth spot when the rankings were published yesterday.

Rios earned $361,00 for the win and Rusedski received $190,000 as runner-up.